

THE JONESVILLE MUSEUM
300 WEST AUSTIN STREET
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670

August 22, 2011

Ref 6.1
RECEIVED

2011 DEC 27 P 1:50

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William L. McMurry
United States Postal Service
Dallas Facilities Service Office
P. O. Box 667180
Dallas, TX 75266-7180

RE: Jonesville – Main Office (484495-002)
2335 FM 134, Jonesville, TX 75659-9998

Dear Mr. McMurry:

I would first like to thank you for the time and attention you gave my inquiry of August 12, 2011. It was a pleasure speaking with you about the Jonesville Post Office and its placement on the list of facilities currently under evaluation for potential closings.

Today I am writing to reiterate the interest of The Jonesville Museum, Inc. as Lessor and Landlord of the above referenced facility in significantly reducing the amount paid by the USPS as rent. While you did not indicate in our conversation that such a reduction in rent could prevent this Post Office from closing, we feel that it is important to formally make an offer to reduce one of the primary operating costs associated with this facility in the hopes of maintaining the continued operation of the Jonesville Post Office which was established in 1847.

The Jonesville Museum, Inc. is willing to reduce the rent for the above referenced facility from \$7,344.00 per year by fifty percent (50%) to \$3,600.00 per year effective immediately with the next rental payment due. I am willing to execute any lease amendment documentation immediately upon receipt to accomplish this reduction without delay. This offer is made without any expectation of a warranty for the continued operation of this post office.

From information provided to me by a group of postal customers in Jonesville, I have learned that each and every cost related to the operation of the facility will be an important factor in the decision by the USPS to keep our post office open, or not. I hope that this considerable offer will be accepted by the USPS and that it will help keep this important and historic service available to the people of Jonesville.

Ref 6.1
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The above offer is made in good faith as a suggestion, we are willing to entertain any ideas or suggestions you may have for creative ways our lease agreement could be structured to enhance the attractiveness of the contract to the USPS.

Again I thank you for your time related to this matter and I look forward to our continued partnership in regard to the operation of the Jonesville Post Office.

Sincerely,



Kim Vaughan Scrivener
President


c: Allison Rizan
District Discontinuance Coordinator
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9331

Deborah Ebera
Consumer Affairs & Industry Contact
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9631

Frank Richards
Manager P. O. Operations, Longview
United States Postal Service
2336 S. Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Ms. Pat Vaughan
P. O. Box 84
Jonesville, Texas 75659

Ms. Marty Vaughan
P. O. Box 141
Jonesville, Texas 75659



Ms. Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Miller
P. O. Box One
Jonesville, Texas 75659



Ref 6.2

September 2, 2011

Dr. Lelia Vaughn
PO Box 129
Jonesville, TX 75659-0129

Dr. Vaughn,

This is in response to your letter received August 26, 2011, regarding the discontinuance study for the Jonesville, TX Post Office.

You bring up a number of concerns and I'd like to clarify as many of these as possible.

We believe we provided sufficient advanced notice for the Jonesville Post Office community meeting, held Saturday, August 27. We set a date and time designed to accommodate as many of our customer's schedules as possible and placed letters in the boxes of all of Jonesville's 111 PO box holders on August 17. These should have been received by most of our customers by August 18, if they check their box regularly. This notification was within our established five to seven-day notification standard. The meeting was also publicized through the local news media. We had over 70 people attend the meeting, which indicates our customers who wished to speak with Postal Service officials and provide community input did receive sufficient advanced notification.

With regards to the study findings mentioned at the meeting, this information was not the final study and could be best described as preliminary findings, as we have not concluded our study for this office. The Postal Service proposal posted in the Post Office lobby on August 23 allows for community comment, including but not limited to feedback from the community meeting, for 60 days from the date of posting. We will continue to accept written comments, including this and your previous letter, for consideration during the current 60-day period before the study is finalized and submitted to our Headquarters for approval.

As discussed during the community meeting, Jonesville Post Office customers will be given the option of carrier delivery to their residences if they place a box on the existing line of travel, or if they prefer instead to maintain a PO box, will need to obtain this service from the nearby Waskom Post Office, or another local Post Office. The decision to rent a PO box instead of accepting free, home delivery will be the decision of the customer. No one will be forced to travel to Waskom to receive their mail.

You noted security concerns associated with rural mailbox delivery. Customers may place a lock on their mailbox. A locked mailbox must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The Postal Service does not open locked mailboxes and does not accept keys for this purpose.

One other possible delivery option will be available to our customers if we can successfully negotiate a Village Post Office (VPO) agreement with a local business, such as yours. If we are successful in establishing a VPO for your community, then we will be able to offer centralized delivery to either a detached PO box unit located within the VPO, or to centralized delivery boxes located outside or near the VPO.

You stated in your letter the Postal Service has been offered a reduced rental rate by the lessor, but the USPS lease rental agent didn't seem interested in lowering expenses. The facts in this matter do not support your assertion. There are two reasons the USPS real estate specialist did not agree to renegotiate the lease terms: (1) The current term does not expire until 2015 and we are still working on leases for 2011 to 2013, and, (2) Because this facility is identified on the Post Office discontinuance study list, until all the studies have been completed we are very careful not to enter into a new lease contract.

Your additional recommendations have been noted and will be part of the official customer feedback record to be considered in the Jonesville Post Office discontinuance study.

As a self-supporting government enterprise, the Postal Service receives no tax dollars, but relies solely on the sale of postage, products, and services to pay for operating expenses.

Reduced mail volume and revenue is creating enormous financial pressures on the Postal Service. These pressures have created a situation the Postal Service hasn't faced before — the need to adjust its entire infrastructure at every level.

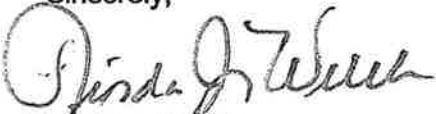
Decisions to streamline operations to create efficiencies and cost savings balance the Postal Service's business needs against the needs of its customers. The Postal Service is adapting to meet the evolving needs, demands, and activities of our customers by consolidating operations, adjusting delivery routes and restructuring administrative processing functions.

The Postal Service of the future will be smaller, leaner, and more competitive. But, it will continue to drive commerce, serve communities and deliver value.

The Postal Service is an integral part of every community, and your input is appreciated. You may be assured that we will continue our efforts to meet the postal needs of the communities we serve and continue to provide our customers with the best service possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this matter with you.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Welch



Ref 6.3

September 12, 2011

Lelia Vaughan, Ed.D
P.O. box 129
Jonesville TX 75659

Dear Dr. Vaughan,

I have received your letter dated September 08, 2011 as well as several others. I have the historical documentation that you mailed to me also.

At this time the only information that is available is the Proposal to Close that is posted and will remain posted for 60 days. During this time we encourage the Jonesville customers to send us their comments on this proposal. The proposal will be removed on October 24, 2011 from Postal premises. This information was provided at the community meeting and there has been no change in status of this study.

We have received the letter from your local sheriff's department and it will be added to the official record.

Your letter to Mr. Bill McMurry, regarding the rent reduction is being reviewed at this time and the Real Estate Department will notify you when they have made their decision.

Post Office Box customers will be notified by US Postal Service by mail after a final decision has been made.

I have attached to this letter the "The Summary of Post Office Change Regulations" for your information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Rizan".

Allison Rizan
CSA – OPS
Dallas District

Enclosure:
The Summary of Post Office Change Regulation



Ref 6.4

Lease Amendment

Cent # 7006 0810 0001 8890 8951

Facility Name/Location

MAIN OFFICE (484495-002)

2335 FM 134, JONESVILLE, TX 75659-9998

Amendment No: 004

Lease: G00000003951

This refers to the Lease accepted by the United States Postal Service, hereinafter called the Postal Service, under date of 08/31/1994, whereby there is leased to the Postal Service the above-described facility.

WHEREAS, the Postal Service desires and Landlord is willing to amend the Lease as specified below;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein set forth, and for other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties do hereby agree as follows, effective on the date this document is executed by the Postal Service.

The third renewal option in paragraph 5 of the lease is hereby amended to reflect a per annum rental rate of \$3,600.00 per annum for the period of September 1, 2011 through January 31, 2015.

In all other respects, the Lease shall remain the same and is hereby confirmed.



EXECUTED BY LANDLORD this 20th day of September, 2011.

CORPORATION

Jonesville Museum, Inc.

By executing this Lease Amendment, Landlord certifies that Landlord is not a USPS employee or contract employee (or an immediate family member of either), or a business organization substantially owned or controlled by a USPS employee or contract employee (or an immediate family member of either).

By:

Name & Title Kim Vaughan Scrivener, President

Name & Title

Name & Title

Name & Title

Name & Title

Name & Title

Landlord's Name: JONESVILLE MUSEUM INC
and address 300 W AUSTIN ST

e-mail: kim.scrivener@sbccglobal.net

MARSHALL, TX

Zip+4: 75670-3205

Landlord's Telephone Number(s): 903 923 8100

FAX: _____

Social Security No. or Federal Tax Identification No.: XX-XXX2359

Witness

Witness

- Where the Landlord is a corporation, leases and lease amendments entered into must have the corporate seal affixed or in place thereof the statement that the corporation has no seal.
- Where the Landlord is a corporation, municipal corporation, non-profit organization, or fraternal order or society, the Lease Amendment must be accompanied by documentary evidence affirming the authority of the agent, or agents, to execute the Lease Amendment to bind the corporation, municipal corporation, non-profit organization, or fraternal order or society for which he (or they) purports to act. The usual evidence required to establish such authority is in the form of extracts from the articles of incorporation, or bylaws, or the minutes of the board of directors duly certified by the custodian of such records, under the corporate seal. Such resolutions, when required, must contain the essential stipulations embodied in the Lease Amendment. The names and official titles of the officers who are authorized to sign the Lease Amendment must appear in the document.
- Any notice to Landlord provided under this Lease Amendment or under any law or regulation must be in writing and submitted to Landlord at the address specified above, or at an address that Landlord has otherwise appropriately directed in writing. Any notice to the Postal Service provided under this Lease Amendment or under any law or regulation must be in writing and submitted to "Contracting Officer, U.S. Postal Service" at the address specified below, or at an address that the Postal Service has otherwise directed in writing.

ACCEPTANCE BY THE POSTAL SERVICE

Date: 10/12/2011

Tod J Taylor

Contracting Officer

Signature of Contracting Officer

Southwest FSO SUITE 400, DALLAS, TX 75247-4217

Address of Contracting Officer

INBOX

COMPOSE

ADDRESSES

FOLDERS

SEARCH

OPTIONS

HELP

LOGOUT

CALENDAR

SWITCH TO RICH WEB MAIL

View Mail

Previous

Next

Post Office

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Delete

Move message to...

Show Full Headers

Printer View

Add Sender To Address Book

From:

"AskCensus" <askcensus@custhelp.com>

SpamShield Pro Actions...

Reply-To:

"AskCensus" <askcensus@custhelp.com>

To:

leliabwb@shreve.net

Cc:

leliavaughan@gmail.com

Subject:

Available Census data for Jonesville, Texas 75659 [Incident: 110828-000004]

Date:

Sun 08/28/11 07:05 AM

Attachments

| Name | Type | Save View |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| Part 1 | text/plain | Save |
| Part 2 | text/html | Save |

Your question has been received. You should receive a response by email from our support department within two business days.

If you need to add information to or cancel your question, you can do so by updating it through the questions sub area of the 'My Stuff' section of this site.

Question Reference #110828-000004

Summary:

Available Census data for Jonesville, Texas 75659

Category Level 1: 2010

Date Created: 08/28/2011 08:05

Last Updated: 08/28/2011 08:05

Status: Unresolved

Cc: leliavaughan@gmail.com

Discussion Thread

Customer By Web Form

08/28/2011 08:05

Our Jonesville community is in dire need of current date pertaining to our community....age, race, work, income, etc....for responding to a United States Postal Service feasibility study focused on the viability of maintaining/closing our 164 year old Jonesville Texas Post Office 75659. Our post office is one of few in the nation that has experienced an increase in revenue. Postal officials greatly misrepresented our community characteristics on their preliminary study which put our post office on the list for discontinuance. USPS District officials conducted at meeting at our post office for residents and were shocked that there were so many residents in attendance. Their preliminary research resulted in reporting our work status as 50% retirees and 50% commuters. That is so incorrect and unfair. Could you please provide me with the proper Jonesville 75659 census data so that we can defend a viable post office which is unnecessarily on a discontinuance list??? I need facts to submit for our community.

[--001:001338:04660--]

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Delete

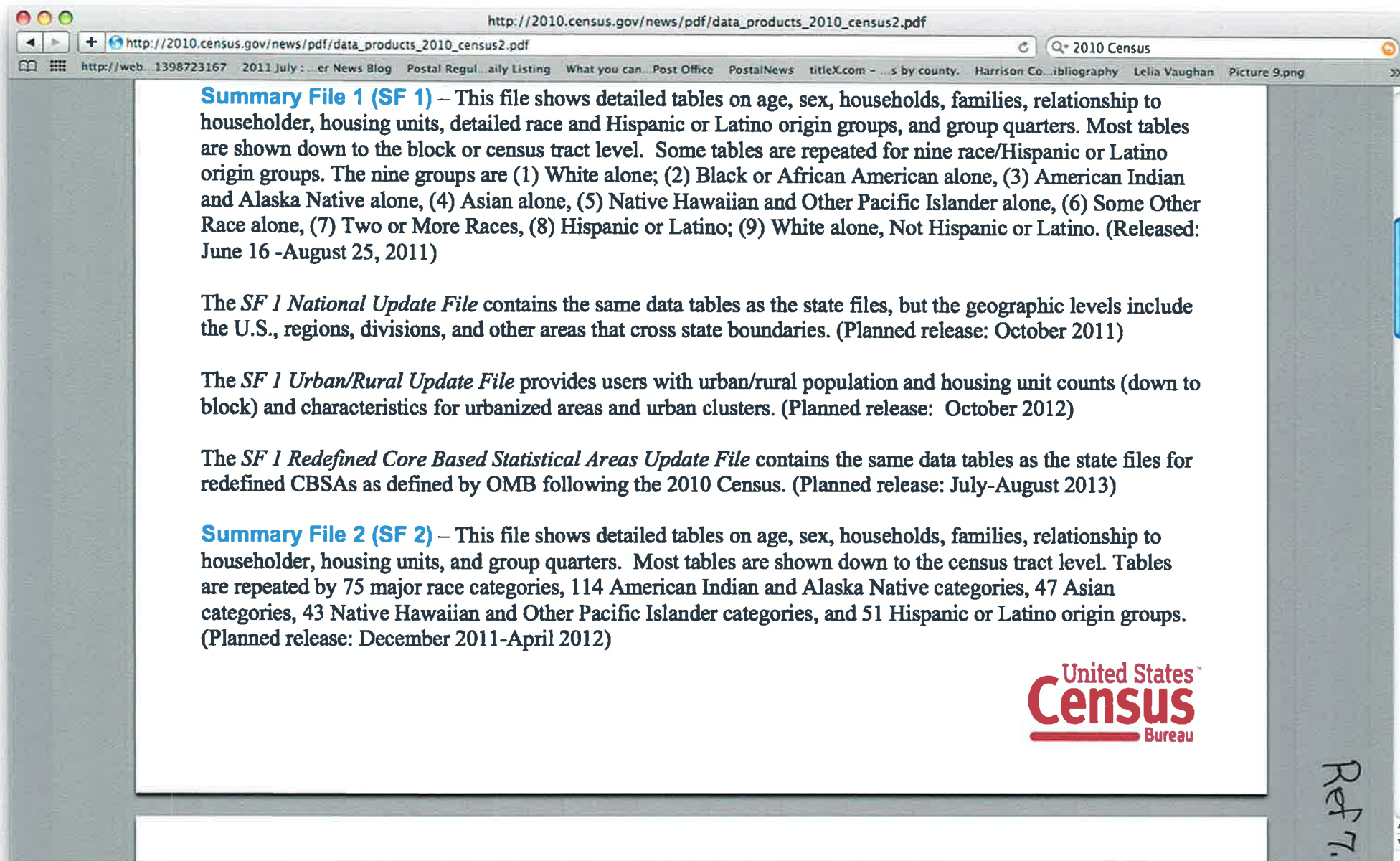
Move message to...

Previous

Next

Post Office

Ref 7.1



Ref 7.2

Ref 8.1

August 31, 2011

District Manager and Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell TX 75099

Dear District Manager and Allison Rizan,

Enclosed are the additional signature pages as promised. I trust that these late entries will be accepted and put on the official record with the previous Petition mailed yesterday, August 30, 2011.

Also, I have enclosed information pertaining to historic sites and areas which were evidently overlooked when the financial statement/community report was prepared. It might have been easier to physically show you these sites in Jonesville, but perhaps these articles and photos will suffice as proof of their existence in this 164 year old community. As expressed at the community meeting on August 27, 2011, Jonesville is not a typical small community. Our residents, businesses, and historic sites are spread out over several miles from the post office. Jonesville has been a very wide spread community for years. The historical significance of this community has been documented in Texas literature, and I trust that if you have any doubts whatsoever, the Harrison County Historical Courthouse Museum has many records that can substantiate Jonesville's origin, the **pre-Civil War railroad** from Swanson's Landing through Jonesville, the **Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan Home** and Texas State Historic Landmark, **Locust Grove Plantation** and Texas State Historic Landmark, **Concord Cemetery**, **Old Border Baptist Church**, and **T. C. Lindsey & Company** which evolved from the initial 1847 trading post....all of which are in Jonesville, Texas 75659.

Do you need documentation that there are other businesses in Jonesville in addition to T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store? **EXCO Resources** (formerly named Winchester Oil/Westchester Gas) was started here in Jonesville by Sammy Vaughan, the man who designed and built the current post office building. He was killed in a plane crash, and one of his daughters became CEO of his company. Her name is Kim Scrivener, and she is the manager of the Jonesville Museum which serves as lessor for the post office building. Kim Scrivener is the person who offered the USPS lease rental agent a 50 % reduction in lease fees on August 12th. The office building for EXCO was hit by lightning and burned. EXCO still is a Jonesville Post Office business customer. **The Jonesville Museum** was destroyed last year by a tornado. The slab is just north of the post office. Both buildings were built around the same time in the late 80's. **TGGT** is a very large Texas Gas Gathering and Transmission pipeline company which provides service throughout this region. They recently built a new office building in Jonesville which is located on FM 134 and at the site of a large compression station. There are other small business entities in Jonesville which don't have "store front" shopping locations. Jonesville has philanthropists, investors, carpenters, back yard auto mechanics, oil field workers, home-based businesses, and other business interests.

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If one is not familiar with a community, its characteristics are often overlooked or misjudged. Perhaps the person who prepared the official financial statement/report about Jonesville's Post Office and the community served, only saw one place to shop and recorded only one business. That was an unfortunate mistake in USPS research. Hopefully, you will correct the records and reconsider the true characteristics of this community and its residents. I guarantee you that I do not fit under the umbrella of "retiree" or "commuter," nor do many other Jonesville residents. While there are some retirees and some commuters in Jonesville, the percentages reported in the official USPS statement are very incorrect and misrepresented.

You must know by now that our small rural post office has experienced a **significant increase in revenue** over the last three years rather than a decline. That is a fact recorded in the financial statement of Jonesville's Post Office which should be celebrated. There is no doubt that small rural post offices serve a major need. Why would an Area Manager recommend to a District Manager that a successful rural post office be closed? Why would an Area or District Manager just sign such a legal document without making sure its content truthfully represents the community being considered for discontinuance? Please look beyond the obviously incorrect USPS Area/District interpretation of our community as recorded in that financial statement/report and grasp our truthful increase in revenue in the palms of your hands and reverse the recommendation for discontinuance.

Devotion to our Jonesville Post Office was certainly obvious at the community meeting. Should you choose to maintain the current recommendation for discontinuance, residents and postal patrons will be displeased and this battle will continue. Would it not make sense to please the majority of the community and continue the Jonesville Post Office 75659 rather than to please only a few rural route residents who live in our Jonesville area? **Perhaps Waskom Post Office should discontinue some of its rural deliveries to Jonesville area residents who live in relative close proximity to Jonesville Post Office 75659.** Fewer residents would be inconvenienced and negatively impacted. Residents and businesses in Jonesville prefer post office box delivery rather than street delivery because it is safer and more secure. Jonesville residents and businesses would have to drive 2600 miles extra per year to get their mail in Waskom. That scenario would greatly impact the majority of residents and businesses. Please reconsider the recommendation and propose that Jonesville's Post Office be continued, that Waskom's Post Office discontinue rural delivery to Jonesville residents, and that Jonesville's small rural post office should be celebrated for increasing revenues as compared to the many revenue declines which have been reported across the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659-0129

September 4, 2011

Ref 8.2

District Manager and District Discontinuance Coordinator

Enclosed are additional Jonesville community related photos to be included with the previous sets of photos sent to your offices last week and which should be put into the official records pertaining to Jonesville Post Office 75659.

Please notify me at your earliest convenience if you should need additional proof of our community as it exists now and/or as it has existed for years. I am not the only resident providing information to you. It is a community-wide effort. I just happen to live across the road from the post office and from T. C. Lindsey & Company and am serving as the community data collector in our pursuit to keep Jonesville's USPS Post Office 75659 in service.

Do you want more information pertaining to Jonesville, Jonesville businesses, foundations, organizations, churches, or postal service in Jonesville? Senator Wright Patman contributed information to Concord Cemetery Association years ago when the association was developing a history of that cemetery. Senator Patman provided the historical listing for post office openings, postmasters, and date of first service to the public for Jonesville and other communities around Jonesville. I will be happy to try to copy his entries should you need additional proof for the files.

For documentation purposes, I have enclosed photos of The Jonesville Museum which was destroyed by the January 2010 tornado, the concrete slab of the museum which is all that remains today, and a photo of the former EXCO office and TGGT office which was destroyed by fire as a result of a lightning strike. The building had to be demolished due to its lack of stability and safety.

Don't hesitate to contact me should you need additional information. If I receive other useful photos or information from the community at large, I will forward it to you.

Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

Ref 8.3

September 12, 2011
Linda J. Welch
Vice President, Southwest Area Operations
United States Postal Service
P.O. Box 224748
Dallas TX 75222-4748

Dear Ms. Welch,

Thank you for your reply to my letter you received on August 26, 2011 regarding the discontinuance study for the Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659. When I received your response, I initially thought that there obviously was no need in replying to your letter of September 2, 2011, but now I feel that you must be made aware of facts pertaining to the actual responses, statements, and information used in the feasibility study of Jonesville's post office. I do not intend to forward a copy of this letter. It is very clear to me that you and your office hold much responsibility and authority in the discontinuance process and that those USPS officials within your jurisdiction are just trying to fulfill the obligations placed upon them. It must be difficult for you and for them, but there is an obligation to perform duties with care and diligence and area and district officials have not adequately prepared and/or presented sufficient evidence that Jonesville Post Office 75659 warrants discontinuance. Please do not pass judgment prematurely on this letter. I am truly concerned for the negative public image the USPS is fostering.

You indicated to me that 111 PO box holders were notified by letters and that recipients should have received those letters by August 18. There were more PO box holders in Jonesville on August 17th. I think the number of box holders that day was 123, but only USPS officials may peruse the official daily records which should have been accessible prior to sending out notification letters and questionnaires. Some residents and business interests did not receive their letter of notification until August 22nd. If a five to seven-day notification period is the standard and if USPS can access the current number of PO box rentals in a rural post office, then why were insufficient numbers of letters provided to Jonesville post office box holders on August 18th?

Secondly, you mentioned that "The meeting was also publicized through the local news media." The only official USPS news media release that I could find was issued on August 28, 2011. That was the day after our Jonesville, Texas 75659 community meeting which was held at 2:30 pm on August 27, 2011. The reason we had such a large crowd in attendance was because we, Friends of Jonesville Post Office, mailed letters to Jonesville post office box holders in an effort to seek attendance at such an important meeting and also because Jonesville residents do not want to lose their post office and their zip code. What other official news media releases did USPS provide, that would have announced to Jonesville residents and the surrounding community that there would be a meeting on August 27th? The USPS release of August 28th is available for review online.

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P2

Resident post office box holders are wanting to maintain their address identification in Jonesville, Texas 75659. Loss of zip code identity can be a serious threat to survival of unincorporated communities such as ours. There are fewer Jonesville residents who receive rural mail delivery from Waskom Post Office than there are Jonesville post office box holders. Why should the majority of residents be inconvenienced with zip code changes as opposed to making the few rural mail delivery residents in Jonesville change their zip code to 75659? Area Manager Frank Richards and District Manager Victor Benavides recommended elimination of 75659 on August 4th. Why so very early in the discontinuance process? Was there some underlying reason why Mr. Richards favored Waskom Post Office? It appears that zip codes can be sustained and maintained if final decisions are made to discontinue post offices. Residents were shocked that area and district USPS officials had recommended elimination of 75659 on August 4, 2011 prior to seeking input from the community which could be impacted by loss of the community's zip code identity....an identity which has been in existence for 48 years. This concern is even further supported by the insufficient information used as basis for such decision having been made by Mr. Richards and Mr. Benavides.

Ms. Welch, you obviously must be a very reasonable and practical person, otherwise you would not be in such an important position within the United States Postal Service. Years ago, I received rural mail delivery from a roadside mail box. I had to replace the mail box several times due to vandalism. I had important mail lost/stolen from my box. Theft is a very serious concern for rural mail delivery residents, especially when multiple digit payments and checks are placed in an unattended mail box, locked or unlocked. It is a well known fact throughout this oil/gas rich area in Jonesville that many of our residents are oil and gas royalty owners and that large check sums are delivered by mail to some residents each month. Jonesville residents use post office boxes for safety and security reasons. Jonesville has had 5 burglaries within the last 6 months. Allison Rizan was provided a copy of the message sent to me from our Harrison County Sheriff's Department which verifies that fact. Last year, T. C. Lindsey & Company suffered one break-in and theft from a storage building, one theft of an antique pump on display, theft of the U. S. Flag and destruction of the rope and hosting material, and burglary/theft from a rental house. Our Jonesville Post Office had its flag stolen. The Hamby family had vehicles burglarized and theft of contents. Within the last ten years, T. C. Lindsey and Company suffered an attempted burglary and major damage to its door. The Kyle home suffered an attempted burglary. The Ferrell's were attacked by intruders who wanted money. I had all of my workshop tools stolen from my garage. There are other factual reports from Jonesville residents about thefts and burglaries. Crimes such as theft and burglary in this very spread out rural community are very serious and real risks. We do not have uniformed officers in our area all of the time. Harrison County is a large area. While locked mail boxes are on the market, if a criminal wants to break through a lock, a criminal who wants to steal valuable content such as dividend, royalty, social security checks, or useful personal identity will break in....it's happened in our homes and businesses. It certainly is a real risk to a mail box left unattended on the roadside whether locked or not. If you have not lived in a rural area and if you have not had an unattended rural delivery mail box by the road, you might not understand the real risk. I am fully aware that lockable mail boxes can be

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purchased and placed on roadsides, but the real truth is that doing so is no insurance that contents will be safe and secure. District officials requested only MAIL THEFT information in our zip code 75659. We asked for full disclosure of burglary and thefts in Jonesville, and I forwarded a copy to Allison Rizan. When the majority of residents in a community utilize rented post office boxes, there is greater security and safety for mail delivery.

In gathering data to submit to Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator, we have identified several entities, businesses, foundations, and organizations in Jonesville area which are post office patrons and two churches situated on properties that historically have always been in Jonesville. The Financial Statement and community description signed by USPS Area Manager Frank Richards and put on display in the Jonesville Post Office for public review during hours of operation, indicated that there was only one business in Jonesville. Why? Why did he not conduct preliminary factual research about the Jonesville community prior to recommending discontinuance and loss of zip code? District Manager Victor Benavides signed the same document. I have attached a list of other businesses and entities.

The official record on display for public review shows that the community is comprised by 50% retirees and 50% commuters. Where did that inappropriate and false description originate? I don't fit into either category, nor do many other residents who live and work in Jonesville. How could a representative of the USPS carelessly submit false data which could result in an unfair evaluation of a community and in this situation where a rural community could lose its post office which has been very much a part of the community for 164 years? Residents are appalled that USPS has presented such a shallow description of Jonesville. Did USPS officials seek accurate data or seek input from the community prior to subjecting this community to the stress of potential discontinuance? We do not understand.

My involvement in this discontinuance process originated because Allison Rizan contacted my sister by phone and asked if the community meeting could be held in my family's T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store. My sister explained that we did not have air conditioning, that it was very hot in the afternoon, that she would have to get approval from other owners, and that she would be out of town when Allison wanted to have the meeting. My sister gave me Allison's phone number, and I called to suggest a better time due to the 109 degree temperatures that we had been having in mid-afternoon in August. When Allison returned my call, she told me that the meeting had been set for 2:30 pm on Saturday, August 27th in the post office lobby and could not be changed. Other than the physicians who reside in Jonesville who are post office box holders, I have achieved possibly the highest degree in education of other residents. I also live across the road from the Jonesville Post Office 75659 and from our store, T.C. Lindsey & Company. Other post office box holders and business interests are spread out all over the community...some as far away as 8 miles from our post office. My location, my education, my background, my family history in Jonesville since the 1880's, and my property ownership in Jonesville to the north, south, east, and west of our post office have all put me in a position of leadership in the effort to save Jonesville

Post Office 75659...not by choice as much as by need and commitment to the survival of this historic community and its postal service. Evaluation and research are personal strengths which I could not ignore in Jonesville's pursuit to overcome the discontinuance recommendation. That is how I became involved with sending concerns, comments, suggestions, and constructive criticism relative to the fate of Jonesville Post Office 75659. My efforts have been in good faith and from sincere concern.

My intentions are not to be negative about USPS at all. My grandfather was a rural carrier in Jonesville. My aunt was postmaster in Jonesville for 35 years. I have always been loyal to USPS and would not have written to you if USPS area and district officials had been fair, honest and respectful of this community and our need for this post office. We all understand that USPS has significant financial troubles at this time which necessarily require change. It just is very difficult to understand why our rural community has been misrepresented in the official records, why our rural post office which has shown a 59% increase in revenue over the past three years was recommended for discontinuance, why many questions remain unanswered, why contradictory replies have been given by area and district officials about why our post office is being studied for discontinuance, why we are having to prove that legitimate businesses and entities exist in Jonesville, and why Waskom Post Office makes rural delivery to a few Jonesville residents who live less than a mile from the existing Jonesville Post Office 75659 ...and in a few cases within easy walking distance. I know of five such residences within less than a mile of our post office. I also know that one such home within less than a mile from our post office and that has been rendered service by Waskom Post Office is the home of two former United States Postal Service postmasters, both of whom at one time or another served as Jonesville's postmaster. Their names are Lloyd and Reba Nolan Burkhalter. They live west of and less than a mile from Jonesville Post Office. Waskom is five miles to the east of Jonesville. Why did two former Jonesville postmasters seek rural delivery from Waskom? Residents have been wondering why and theorizing about the fact that neither Lloyd nor Reba are rendering support for the continuance of Jonesville Post Office. It would seem more likely that former postmasters would normally be supportive in continuance. They were proactive when in the positions as postmasters. The change in attitude is puzzling and of great concern. I know of no circumstance or situation which would prohibit any of the Jonesville residents who live within such short distance from our post office that would keep them from being able to retrieve mail at the post office. Does USPS deliver mail by rural delivery to roadside mail boxes for the sole sake of convenience to customers when an existing post office is in such close proximity? Does USPS encourage neighboring community post offices to actively seek rural mail delivery customers beyond their jurisdiction? Would it be possible to have those few rural route mail delivery residents in Jonesville retrieve their mail from the existing post office rather than for Waskom Post Office to assume additional delivery time and cost for seemingly unnecessary delivery to another community? Our post office box patrons are asking that question. If USPS wants the majority of Jonesville residents to drive 10 miles roundtrip (from Jonesville Post Office to Waskom Post Office) rather than to have a very few rural delivery residents travel a short distance, does that seem logical or practical?

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Linda, in my phone conversation with Allison Rizan on August 15, 2011. I asked her why Jonesville Post Office 75659 was being considered for discontinuance. She said there are two reasons: **decline in revenue and low workload**. Frank Richards, Manager of Post Office Operations, sent a notification letter and questionnaire to Jonesville residents dated August 17, 2011. Frank's letter stated that our post office "is being studied due to **declining office workload**"....that "revenue and/or volume this office has"has "**been in a steady decline over the past several years.....**" On August 23, 2011 an official copy of the "Invitation for Comments on the Proposal to Close the Jonesville TX Post Office and Establish Rural Route Service" was placed in our post office in the locked part of the post office. Attached to the letter addressed to the customers of the Jonesville Post Office and which was signed by Frank Richards were copies of the "Jonesville Post Office Discontinuance Financial Summary" and the "Proposal to Close the Jonesville TX Post Office and Establish Rural Route Service." In the opening statements of the proposal, the document states "The office is being studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: **Due to declining office workload.....The revenue and/or volume this office has (has) been in a steady decline.**" In the very next paragraph, the report states "**Revenue has seen a slight increase** over the last several years." Financial figures were then shown for 2007 through 2010 and those figures showed an **increase in revenues by 59% over the past few years**. On the letter to Victor Benavides in which Frank Richards requested authorization to conduct the investigation, Frank indicated that the rational for the study was due to "**Insufficient Customer Demand**" and "**Office Workload.**" At the community meeting on August 27, 2011, a resident asked if Jonesville's Post Office was losing revenues. Frank Richards responded without hesitation "Yes." Residents had perused the document which held his signature and immediately challenged him. He did not seem to know what the financial statement contained relative to an actual documented decline in revenue, steady decline in revenue, slight increase in revenue, or as the document showed **significant increase in revenues**. Yesterday, some Jonesville residents received letters from Frank Richards in response to questionnaire comments and in which he mentioned our post office was being studied because of "**a vacancy in a small office.**" Now which of the many reasons provided constitute the actual truth? What is the bottom line reason for our post office being studied for discontinuance? Can we rely on anything submitted by the Area Manager or the District Manager? Jonesville residents are just as concerned as I am about the confusing answers provided by area and district officials. I am even moreso concerned if the reason has anything to do with the postmaster vacancy in our post office. Why hasn't USPS tried to fill that vacancy? Whose decision was that?

Jonesville residents have serious concerns about the accuracy of official reports which were evidently utilized as the basis upon which preliminary decisions were made for recommending Jonesville Post Office for discontinuance. I think you will agree with me that there is legitimate concern when given such confusing and inaccurate content rendered in supposedly official USPS documents which were signed by the official who made the recommendation for discontinuance. Frank Richards' signature is just under and on the document page which states "**Copies of all materials upon which this**

proposal is based are available for public inspection at the Jonesville Post Office and Waskom Post Office during normal office hours." I am concerned about the basis upon which Frank Richards made his preliminary decision to recommend Jonesville Post Office for discontinuance and the content in materials available for review which do not reflect an accurate description of our community or the need for our post office. I have forwarded photos and lists and historic facts to Allison Rizan, but in consideration of the replies in the letter I received from Frank Richards yesterday, I am not confident that anything sent to the district will be read properly or utilized adequately in a fair decision about Jonesville Post Office 75659. Some replies in my letter from Frank Richards yesterday were not even related to anything mentioned or questioned such as the topic of "suspension." Our post office was not suspended. Why was an answer about suspension given. It is very obvious that "form" answers were inserted into the letters delivered to residents yesterday. Did district officials even read the comments? One must ask that when there is sufficient reason to believe an unrequested categorical answer was given to an unasked question. Surely, USPS must have a standard of care for interpreting and responding to comments other than to let unqualified personnel just pick the best possible answer from some list of approved categorical USPS statements. It would be good for you to see what the district is sending to residents. I am sure you have seen the approved answers, but possibly you have not seen how those approved answers are being inserted inappropriately as official responses from the district.

The "Discontinuance Feasibility Study Survey" on display for public review with the proposal for discontinuance has several incomplete and/or inaccurate entries about the Jonesville community which I will herein attempt to mention.

4. Community Information.

e. Are there special historic events related to the community? -

USPS preparer listed the 165th anniversary of T. C. Lindsey & Company as the only such historic event related to Jonesville. There are other historic events related to Jonesville and there are historic sites in Jonesville:

- 165th anniversary of USPS Post Office in Jonesville
- Pre-Civil War railroad was constructed from Swanson's Landing through Jonesville. A Texas Historical Site marker is in Jonesville near the railroad bed.
- Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan Home and Texas State Historic Landmark in Jonesville
- Locust Grove Plantation Home and Texas State Historic Landmark in Jonesville
- Concord Cemetery and Texas State Historic Cemetery in Jonesville
- Old Border Church Cemetery and Texas State Historic Cemetery in Jonesville
- Last bale of cotton baled in Harrison County Texas on display at T. C. Lindsey & Company. Cotton Gin is a Harrison County Historic Site
- Current Archeological Study by Texas and Louisiana concerning a large Caddo Indian Village in Jonesville.

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f. Describe the geographic and economic makeup of the community.

USPS preparer stated 50% retirees and 50% commuters. If USPS needed to know a more definitive answer rather than to extract one from imagination, why did USPS not ask residents on the questionnaire when given the opportunity? Current and complete Census Bureau information from 2010 census for rural areas will not be available until 2012 or later. Unfortunately, if that census survey was distributed on the basis of zip code alone rather than geographical location of what has been known as Jonesville for 164 years, some of our true Jonesville residents with rural route delivery from Waskom would not be reported under the proper community.

h. Provide the names of religious institutions in the service area.

- Old Border Baptist Church on Concord Road in Jonesville
- Bellview Road Baptist Church on Bellview Road in Jonesville

i. Provide the names of organizations in the service area, including nonprofit organizations. Only The Jonesville Foundation was listed. There are others.

- The Jonesville Museum (note that the museum building was destroyed in 2010 tornado)
- The Ark and Dove Foundation
- Concord Cemetery Association

j. Provide the names of businesses including small and home-based businesses.

Only T. C. Lindsey & Company was listed. As far as walk-in store front businesses, the store and post office are the only ones where customers could go inside and purchase items. There are other businesses which offer service to the area and which also are postal patrons. There are several small home-based businesses, too. I will attach a separate sheet with a listing of the ones which have identified themselves as business interests. The attached list may not reflect all home-based businesses or self-employed residents.

NEPA Checklist. To the best of your knowledge, does this closing impact any of the following items? Allison Rizan and Frank Richards both signed this form.

-Historic, cultural or archeological resources - USPS responded "NO," but the modern postal service facility was constructed in an area being studied by the Texas State Historical Commission for possible inclusion in the National Park Service Register as a National Historic District and new buildings disqualify such designations in most situations. The answer should have been "YES."

-Adverse impact to natural resources - USPS responded "NO." but the construction of that facility specifically for use by the USPS removed natural vegetation which will be difficult to restore as long as the area is covered with concrete parking lot and a vacant building. That area used to be in natural vegetation. While the building is used as a post office, environmental impact would not take precedence over postal service usage. If the post office is discontinued, the concrete and building would be a significant environmental impact to land owners other than the lessor.

Financial Statement - The financial statement shows expenses amounting to \$32,269 per year. The revenue produced in 2010 was \$25,120. As of a few days ago, there were 127 post office boxes rented in Jonesville. Are post office box rental fees included in revenues? In consideration of the difference between revenues reported in 2010 and expenses listed per year on the financial statement, there would be a \$7,149 difference/loss per year should the post office be continued without change in operation hours, increase of PO box rental fees, or accepting a lower lease amount offer. If Jonesville Post Office were continued, if hours of operation were reduced, if Saturday service was eliminated, and if the lease rental offer for a reduction of the lease to \$3600 per year was accepted and applied immediately to the 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 years, the post office in Jonesville could be self-sustaining. If post office box rental fees were increased in addition to reduction of hours of operation, elimination of Saturday service, and acceptance of the reduced lease fee offer, Jonesville Post Office would certainly be self-sufficient. I think this financial possibility in a small rural post office that is continued would far outweigh the negative impacts on the community and the negative impact on the USPS should our post office be discontinued. If the post office is discontinued, USPS will have to pay the original lease fee for the next four upcoming years even though the facility would be vacant. The four year cost for no service would be a \$29,376 loss for the post office. I did not find any documentation of the costs/savings USPS would realize relative to delivery of mail to our post office versus delivery of mail to 127 other locations. The financial statement provided to the Jonesville public for review showed a proposed savings of \$246,701 over 10 years or \$24,670 per year if the post office is discontinued, but the person who prepared the statement did not include the lease rental fee which would by contract law have to be paid until the contract expired. The real savings report would have to consider the losses associated with continual rent payment through 2015. However, if the post office is continued, the Jonesville Post Office could in essence be self-sustaining with little or no expense to USPS. Which scenario is better financially?

I would think anyone interested in maintaining the integrity of the United States Postal Service would have to agree that continuance of the Jonesville Post Office would be of less impact to all concerned parties. **When will Jonesville residents have access and opportunity to review full disclosure of the financial impacts of the proposed discontinuance vs. continuance and the complete report which shows true forecasted savings for each alternative mail delivery option given to our community?**

My sincere wish is for USPS to get back on its feet financially. I cannot in good conscience ignore the errors made by USPS officials who had responsibility and authority for adequately investigating and evaluating the Jonesville Post Office and the Jonesville community prior to making a recommendation for discontinuance. Furthermore, It is very difficult to completely trust anything said or written by the Area Manager or the District Official who approved the recommendation for discontinuance study. The documents on display for public view contain the statement that the proposal for discontinuance was based on the contents in the document on display, and that document is lacking true facts. The United States Postal Service has served this country well. It is very sad that USPS officials failed to properly assess a community

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and prepare an accurate report before using that faulty information as basis for making a recommendation as important as discontinuance.. It would be even sadder, if this faulty USPS practice within your jurisdiction were allowed to continue without rectification and if Jonesville Post Office 75659 or any other small rural post office is sacrificed at the hands of either incompetence and/or inadequate research. I truly believe that you have been unaware of the many discrepancies and faulty entries on the very important reports upon which decisions have been made, will be made, and most likely should not have been made regarding Jonesville Post Office. It is not your fault that errors have been made prior to your knowledge of those errors, but you have now received a concerned citizen's report about such inadequacies as evidenced throughout the discontinuance process relative to Jonesville's post office. Hopefully, you will receive the content in this letter as constructive criticism and as an honest plea for the system to be corrected before a small rural community is victimized and a much needed post office is lost forever. It must have been easy to identify small rural post offices as possible targets for closure, but with Congress mandating protection for small rural post offices, the United States Postal Service should make every effort to properly evaluate, consider, and decide in favor of continuance of those small rural post offices which have experienced increases in revenue in spite of nationwide decline and which can have operating hours reduced to improve workload efficiency. Our small rural post office has achieved when most have declined. Keep Jonesville Post Office 75659 alive.

Linda, we have a significant documentation file relative to the proposed possible discontinuance of Jonesville Post Office 75659. A copy of this letter will be put in that file as have the many other letters sent to USPS officials and the very few responses received from USPS. The community meeting on August 27th was attended by County Judge, County Commissioner, Retired County Judge, and a representative from U. S. Representative Louie Gohmert's office in addition to many citizens, residents, and businesses who oppose discontinuance and who strongly support our community and post office. We had a videographer record the session. We had another individual record the full audio of the meeting. We had another resident record video/audio of the session. Local television station sent a representative to record and film the entire community meeting. We have already started compiling facts and data relative to an appeal should the discontinuance process continue. We have already been in contact with the Postmaster General and the Postal Regulatory Commission. It would be cost effective if the discontinuance process were stopped now rather than to proceed with such questionable actions on the part of area and district officials who did not adequately conduct research and who did not properly document essential information necessary for establishing basis upon which a truthful and fair decision could be made. If you have questions about any aspect of the content in this letter, please contact me. If you have not reviewed the official USPS proposal and record on display in Jonesville Post Office, perhaps you should. If you have not reviewed the financial records of our Jonesville Post Office, please do. If ever there was a time for reconsideration, it is now. My request is even more urgent because our area is suffering from record breaking drought and wildfires which have threatened and are threatening this wide spread community of Jonesville. Residents are stressed. This community is stressed. Please continue Jonesville Post Office 75659 without delay. We will continue showing support

for our post office, our small rural post office which shows strength and increases in revenue even while USPS suffers decline. We would like your support for continuance.

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Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O Bos 129
Jonesville TX 75659
leliabwb@shreve.net
903 687-3403

Attachment: List of Business Interest in Jonesville

bplist00e_WebMainResource_WebSubresources_WebSubframeArchives_WebResourceData_WebResourceFrameName_WebResourceMIMEType_WebResourceTextEncodingName^WebResourceURL

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USPS Announce Public Meetings for Proposed Post Office Closings In 3 States

August 28, 2011 by [Lili](#)

Filed under: [post office closings](#), [postal](#), [postal news](#), [press releases](#), [usps](#)

The following is a combination of press releases from USPS announcing scheduled public meetings for proposed post office closings in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

From USPS:

A review of business activities of the Post Office at this location revealed that the office workload has declined. This reduced workload suggests the maintenance of an independent Post Office here may no longer be warranted.

As more customers choose to conduct their postal business online, on their smart phones and at their favorite shopping destinations, the need for the U.S. Postal Service to maintain its nearly 32,000 retail offices — the largest retail network in the country — diminishes.

The Postal Service announced July 26 that it will be taking the next step in right-sizing its expansive retail network by conducting studies of approximately 3,700 retail offices to determine customer needs. As part of this effort, the Postal Service also introduced a retail-replacement option for affected communities around the nation.

"Today, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail revenue comes from expanded access locations such as grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores, retail chains, self-service kiosks, ATMs and usps.com, open 24/7," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. "Our customer's habits have made it clear that they no longer require a physical post office to conduct most of their postal business."

For communities currently without a postal retail office and for communities affected by these retail optimization efforts, the Postal Service introduced the Village Post Office as a potential replacement option. Village Post Offices would be operated by local businesses, such as pharmacies, grocery stores and other appropriate retailers, and would offer popular postal products and services such as stamps and flat-rate packaging.

"By working with third-party retailers, we're creating easier, more convenient access to our products and services when and where our customers want them," Donahoe said. "The Village Post Office will offer another way for us to meet our customers' needs."

With 32,000 postal retail offices and more than 70,000 third-party retailers — Approved Postal Providers — selling postage stamps and providing expanded access to other postal products and services, customers today have about 100,000 locations across the nation where they can do business with the Postal Service.

"The Postal Service of the future will be smaller, leaner and more competitive and it will continue to drive commerce, serve communities and deliver value," Donahoe added.

The list of offices being studied and additional information can be found at <http://about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/expandedaccess/welcome.htm>.

The U.S. Postal Service will hold a public meeting to discuss its proposal to make possible changes in the way postal services are provided in the following post offices:

ARKANSAS

ALLEENE, AR –Aug 30, at 5:30 pm, at the Alleene Community Center, 151 Little River 134.

MENIFEE, AR –Aug. 30 at 5:30 pm, Meniffee City Hall, 68 N Mustang St.
BEIRNE, AR –Aug 31, at 5:30 pm, Beirne Baptist Church, 24 Beirne Mill Lp.
JERUSALEM, AR –Sept. 1, at 5:30 pm, Jerusalem Community Bldg., 23 School House Rd.
GREGORY, AR –The U.S. Postal Service held a public meeting in Gregory August 24.

<http://about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/expandedaccess/states/arkansas.htm>

Any customer who wishes to submit comments in writing about this issue can send it to:

Manager Consumer & Industry Affairs
USPS Arkansas District
420 Natural Resources Dr
Little Rock, AR 72205-9631

Oklahoma

ADAMS, OK –Aug. 29, at 6 p.m., at the Hardesty School Auditorium, 321 SW 5th, Hardesty OK
HARDESTY, OK –Aug. 29, at 6 p.m., at the Hardesty School Auditorium, 321 SW 5th, Hardesty OK

<http://about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/expandedaccess/states/oklahoma.htm>

Anyone who wishes to submit comments in writing can send them to:

Manager, Consumer & Industry Contact
USPS Fort Worth District
4600 Mark IV Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76161-9631

West Virginia -

Western PA District Manager Charles P. McCreadie, Senior Plant Manager Jeffrey L. Bergen, and Western PA District operations staff will give an overview and listen to community input regarding a proposal to move remaining mail processing operations from the Wheeling WV Post Office into the Pittsburgh Processing and Distribution Center on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (The two-hour meeting will end promptly at 9 p.m.) at
Wheeling Park High School Auditorium
1976 Park View Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

Texas

Customers will have an opportunity to meet with a Postal Service representative to discuss alternatives

BYNUM, TX – Aug. 29, at 6 p.m., at the Bynum ISD Cafeteria, 704 Toliver.
LEESVILLE, TX –Aug 30 at 6 p.m., at the Encouraging Word Church, 51 Country Rd. 121, in Leesville.
ENERGY, TX –Aug. 30, at 6:20 pm, at the Energy Community Center, FM 2486/1702..
BARSTOW, TX – Aug. 30, at 6 p.m., at the Community Center, 100 Concho.
CONCEPCION, TX – Aug 31, at 5 p.m., at the Concepcion Post Office, 2239 FM 716.
IRENE, TX – Aug 31, at 6:30 p.m., at the Irene Community Center, 119 First Street.
LA SALLE, TX – Aug 31, at 6 p.m., at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 4562 Country Rd
COYANOSA, TX –Aug 31, at 6 p.m., at the Post Office, 2550 Hwy 1776, Coyanosa TX 79730.
FORSAN, TX –Sept. 1, at 6 p.m., at the Forsan Baptist Church, 201 W Main..
ENCINO, TX – Sept 1, at 5 p.m., at the Encino Post Office, 291 S Business Highway 281
AQUILLA, TX –Sept. 1, at 6:30 p.m., at the Aquilla ISD Cafeteria, 404 N Richards.
LA WARD, TX –Sept. 1, at 6 p.m., at the La Ward Fire Department, 14086 State Highway 172.
DELMITA, TX –Sept. 2, at 5 p.m., at the Delmita Post Office, 124 Delmita Rd.
KNOTT, TX – Sept. 2, at 6 p.m., at the Farmers Coop, 13100 N CR 9, in Knott.
GRANDFALLS, TX – Sept 7, at 6 p.m., at the Library, 209 Ave D, Grandfalls, TX.
FREDONIA, TX –Sept 10, at 2 p.m., at the Fredonia Scalehouse Café, 11020 RR 1222.

Anyone who wishes to submit comments in writing can send them to:

Manager Consumer & Industry Affairs
USPS Rio Grande District
1 Post Office Dr
San Antonio, TX 78284-9631

USPS held public meetings for the following post offices in Texas earlier this month

Jonesville 75659-Aug. 27
Kildare 75562- Aug. 27
Marietta 75566 – Aug. 27
Brandon 76628- Aug. 25
Burlington 76519 -Aug. 26
Fowlerton 78021- Aug. 22
Hobson 78117- Aug. 23
Hochheim 77967- Aug. 24
Christine 78012- Aug. 16
Fannin 77960- Aug. 17,
Calliham 78007 – Aug. 15

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BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND ENTITIES THAT ARE IN
JONESVILLE, TEXAS AND/OR ARE JONESVILLE POST OFFICE CUSTOMERS

T. C. LINDSEY & COMPANY

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, JONESVILLE POST OFFICE 75659

EXCO RESOURCES

TGGT

TALCO MIDSTREAM

SUPERIOR CONTRACTORS

CIRCLE C OILFIELD SERVICES

SELECT ENERGY SERVICES

LONGPOINT CORNER STORE

CADDO COUNTRY MINI-FARMS

ARK AND DOVE FOUNDATION

GINNY HOOPER, LLC

CONCORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

BIG BLUFF LAND MANAGEMENT

RIVER 8 FARMS, LLC

VAUGHAN PROPERTIES, LLC

THE JONESVILLE FOUNDATION

OLD BORDER BAPTIST CHURCH

BELLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

RICHARD M. ANDERSON, ATTORNEY

CHRISTINA ANDERSON

THE JONESVILLE MUSEUM

Ref 8.4

October 11, 2011

District Discontinuance Coordinator
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9631

Dear District Discontinuance Coordinator,

Jonesville Post Office 75659 has been subjected to critical evaluation since July 27, 2011. In this two and a half month period, your office has encouraged input from residents and customers of the post office. Your office, the office of the Manager of Consumer Affairs, and the District Manager's office have replied with very general statements about the financial decline of USPS and that no decision has been made relative to discontinuance of Jonesville Post Office. Just recently, your letters have contained statements advising that residents must submit official requests for information utilizing the Public Access to Information process. Your offices have not indicated how residents can and should fulfill that additional requirement. One would certainly have to have internet computer access in order to find out how to submit requests for Public Access to Information from the United States Postal Service. I am fortunate enough to have a computer and internet access, but it appears that the office in Washington DC which handles such requests may not be able to provide an answer until after the deadline for Jonesville residents to be able to comment. With that said and considered, I would like to restate for clarity, the following facts which your offices have shared in conversation by phone, in the community meeting, in written content within the official Proposal for Discontinuance which is on display in the Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659 and supposedly on display in the Waskom, Texas Post Office, and in responses to customer concerns entered on the questionnaires and in letters sent to the district office.

Workload for Jonesville's post office was reported to be 2.2. Improvement in workload could be established with a reduction in hours of operation. Why has district not made an adjustment?

Notification letters and official proposal stated that the revenue was reported as low, declining, a steady decline, and showing a slight increase **while in the financial report a significant revenue increase of 59% was reported over the past three years.** Why is there such discrepancy among the various official USPS statements?

The official Proposal for Discontinuance stated that there would be a significant savings to USPS if Jonesville Post Office were discontinued, **but the financial figures reported did not consider costs and expenses** which would additionally be transferred to Waskom Post Office which would have to provide post office box delivery and/or rural carrier delivery to 127 additional Jonesville Post Office box holders who would be inconvenienced with address changes should Jonesville Post Office be discontinued. Additionally, **your official financial report did not consider the additional lease**

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rental fees which would necessarily have to be paid through 2015 in order to fulfill contract agreements with the lessor. Cost savings must consider all costs and expenses necessary for making a change including imposition of additional costs on the post office to which Jonesville's customers would be transferred for service. **We requested a complete financial statement very early in the discontinuance process, but we received a very insufficient and incomplete accounting of the finances of our post office and the corresponding projected financial impacts should our post office be discontinued.**

Distance from nearest post office was reported as 5 miles. This measurement was evidently made from Jonesville Post Office site to Waskom Post Office site. The majority of Jonesville residents do not live near the Jonesville Post Office but much further from the Waskom Post Office than the Jonesville Post Office.

At the request of **USPS real estate agent John Logan**, the lessor, **The Jonesville Musuem (Kim Scrivener, Manager)**, signed, executed, and submitted a renegotiated lease to the real estate agent in which the lease amount was reduced to fifty percent of the current lease amount. What is the status of that most recent lease?

Decreases in customer demand for postal service and decreasing mail volume have impacted USPS nationwide. **Jonesville Post Office has experienced an increase in post office box rentals and an increase in revenue over the past few years.** You have suggested in responses to our written concerns well after the community meeting date on August 27th that **postmaster vacancy** is another contributing factor for our post office being considered for discontinuance. Why has USPS not tried to fill the vacancy? If you have known this for three years, why was no attempt made to fill the vacancy and why was this fact not disclosed to the public prior to the Proposal for Discontinuance, an official USPS document which contains a very misrepresentative description of our community and residents and very untruthful statement of facts.

Some of your responses to the submitted official USPS Community Questionnaires stated that residents and businesses would not be impacted by discontinuance of our post office, that those with concerns for security of mail delivered to rural boxes should put a lock on their roadside boxes, and that rural carriers can provide efficient service on the roadside. Residents have opposed such statements which were evidently based on an evaluation of questionnaire responses. **Questionnaire delivery, content, structure, potential for bias, and competent evaluation have been challenged without response from USPS.** Questionnaires which do not address the specific nature of small rural unincorporated communities do not truly provide accurate evaluative measures of community need for post offices. Furthermore, we have submitted how we would be impacted by discontinuance, why unattended mail box delivery is unsafe in our community, and our concerns for efficient rural delivery.

While you have encouraged input from all residents, **the deadline we were given for submitting questionnaire responses was printed in our notification letters as "no later than September 6, 2011."** The community meeting was on August 27th. Some

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post office box holders had questionnaires delivered to their post office boxes on August 22nd. Some residents were not in town that week or that day. **Not all residents of our unincorporated community were provided notification letters and questionnaires** because there are Jonesville residents who receive mail by rural delivery from the Waskom carrier. **Rural delivery residents of Jonesville were not notified or provided an opportunity for input.** Some Jonesville residents are Spanish speaking and have since communicated that they had trouble reading English and your letter and questionnaire. **USPS did not provide translated notification letters and questionnaires in Spanish for those residents who have difficulty reading English.** Why did USPS District Officials ignore obtaining input from **all residents and customers of Jonesville Post Office 75659?**

Residents and businesses in Jonesville have challenged the content in the official **Proposal for Discontinuance** because **the content does not accurately describe residents, businesses, non-profits, organizations, and historic events relative to Jonesville.**

- a. only one business in Jonesville - **incorrect**
- b. only one non-profit in Jonesville - **incorrect**
- c. no churches in Jonesville - **incorrect**
- d. no organizations in Jonesville - **incorrect**
- e. only one historic event relative to Jonesville - **incorrect**
- f. residents are 50 % retirees and 50% commuters - **incorrect**
- g. no mail thefts reported in Jonesville - **but majority of residents have mail delivered to a locked post office box inside Jonesville Post Office 75659. There were 5 reported burglaries in 75659 for the 6 months prior to our August 27th community meeting with USPS officials which substantiates our stated concerns about safety and security of mail delivery to unattended mail boxes on the roadside.**

Responses from you have stated that USPS financial decline has been caused by widespread internet usage, **but the majority of residents in Jonesville do not have internet access.**

You have indicated that a rural carrier can provide efficient service that would be obtained through a post office. **Can the current Waskom mail carrier fulfill that promise to 127 additional rural mail boxes for residents and businesses on the roadside without necessitating that USPS hire additional rural carriers?** Has a rational consideration of that requirement been **researched?**

You have indicated that Jonesville residents may rent a post office box at the Waskom Post Office. **Does Waskom Post Office have 127 additional rental mail boxes which are available for rent, and if not, what will financially be required to provide adequate service to Jonesville customers should they seek secure delivery at a post office?** Is there adequate parking at the Waskom Post Office should 127 customers drive to get their mail? Will 127 more mail boxes fit into the Waskom Post

Ref 8.4
P4

Office? Will current postal employees in Waskom be able to efficiently handle additional mail volume required for delivery of 127 more customers?

Jonesville residents, businesses, and organizations have been making comments and stating concerns throughout this proposed discontinuance process. This community extends beyond the post office location in every direction. Jonesville has been in existence as a widespread community since 1847 when our first postmaster was appointed on January 18, 1847. **Because of the rural nature and expanse of this community, loss of our post office will be devastating to residents and businesses.** If Jonesville loses its post office and zip code, our community's identity will be at high risk for being forever lost. Loss of zip code imposes serious map identity burdens not only for residents, but for the various businesses in this community. **Jonesville's community identity is based on existence of a post office and zip code as is true in many other communities across rural America. Denying this fact would be a tragic mistake on the part of USPS officials and would impose very serious demands, costs, and burdens on Jonesville residents and businesses.**

Discontinuing Jonesville Post Office 75659 will not only impact Jonesville residents and businesses, but it will burden the United States Postal Service.

- a. customers and businesses with internet access will, for security reasons, actively seek internet transactions rather than driving to Waskom or risking rural delivery.
- b. customers will lose respect for USPS due to the shallow misrepresentation provided by the USPS Area Manager and District Manager which resulted in the discontinuance proposal
- c. customers and businesses will actively seek alternative means for package delivery due to potentially inefficient waiting time in Waskom and/or inconvenience for waiting on a rural carrier
- d. customers who do not currently have computers or internet access will seek an alternative means for communicating other than through USPS
- e. USPS will have to continue to pay lease rental fees through 2015
- f. USPS will have to reimburse post office box holders' prorated box rental fees
- g. USPS will likely lose loyal patronage due to misrepresentation of our community, disregard for our history, our identity, our businesses and organizations, and our overall need for a post office which is necessary for preserving our community identity.
- h. USPS will lose revenue and will have increased expenses for accommodating Jonesville residents by another means of delivery

WHY SHOULD JONESVILLE POST OFFICE 75659 BE CONTINUED?

- 1. Jonesville Post Office has shown a 59% increase in revenue over past three years when most post offices and USPS have suffered declines in revenue.**
- 2. Workload efficiency can be improved by reducing the hours of operation and eliminating Saturday window service and delivery. Reduction in hours of**

operation could have been established prior to discontinuance proposal if workload inefficiency knowledge was known and yet not acted upon.

3. Revenue generation can be improved with an increase in post office box rental fees and expenses can be reduced through execution of the renegotiated lease which grants fifty percent reduction in yearly lease fees and by reducing the hours of operation which would accordingly reduce the hourly wages of the postal clerk.
4. You have witnessed the loyalty of Jonesville residents as shown through the very crowded community meeting attendance beyond building capacity and as evidenced by multiple letters of support sent to your offices for keeping Jonesville Post Office in operation. You also have received substantial proof of the inadequate and erroneous statements prepared by the district in the official Proposal for Discontinuance. Friends of Jonesville Post Office will be submitting additional information about the community, its residents, its internet usage, its businesses, and area wide and regional support for continuance of Jonesville Post Office 75659.
5. Our postal clerk has obviously and positively contributed to USPS service as shown by increases in stamp sales and post office box rentals. Our postal clerk is an hourly wage earner who is not on a full benefit postal service salary. Our postal clerk has promoted stamp sales in the lobby, has provided friendly and efficient service, and has done an exemplary job representing USPS. Imagine what our postal clerk could have accomplished had the USPS District provided postmaster training to enhance postal service. What will happen to our postal clerk? Will she be transferred and employed at another post office or will her job be terminated? She is a positive credit to USPS. Ending her employment is USPS's loss and is not fair.
6. Jonesville has had a post office since 1847. Ending the long standing service would be detrimental to the history of postal service in Texas and to the existence of Jonesville which is characterized with very significant historical events and sites which warrant preservation of community identity and this community's post office. Does USPS have a conscience? Does USPS want our small rural community to become a page in history?
7. Insufficient preliminary research on Jonesville, Jonesville's community, and Jonesville residents and businesses and inadequate preparation of financial facts relative to our post office are unacceptable. The injustice served on this community by inadequate preparation by USPS officials is unprofessional. Unfortunately, the very faulty information supplied by the Area Manager and District Manager was used as the basis for making a proposal for discontinuance without justification. This failure to act in a professional

Ref 8.4
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manner should substantiate every possible positive consideration being given to Jonesville, Jonesville Post Office, and Jonesville Post Office postal clerk.

8. It does not make practical sense to close a post office which is being productive, contributing increases in revenue and post office box holders, and serving as the center foundation for the community and the community's longevity.

Friends of Jonesville Post Office has tried to fill the gaps in your research. Friends of Jonesville Post Office has provided interpretation for Spanish speaking/reading residents and post office box holders. Friends of Jonesville Post Office has sent out very costly supplementary questionnaires to assist with **accurate** descriptions of Jonesville, Jonesville residents, Jonesville businesses and community significance and need for our post office.. Friends of Jonesville Post Office sent out surveys to rural delivery residents as well as to post office box holders, businesses, and other organizations in the community. Friends of Jonesville Post Office has defended this community at a financial cost. Had your officials thoroughly done their jobs prior to the initial recommendation, expenses would have been greatly minimized. We are United States Citizens. We have been loyal and supportive postal patrons. Many of our ancestors were loyal and supportive postal patrons. We strongly oppose the inefficiencies displayed by USPS in this discontinuance process. We have been burdened with time and financial expenditures to make appropriate corrections in the records you publicly displayed and in proving our post office is needed in this small rural unincorporated community. **Our community will not passively surrender to unsubstantiated evidence and untruthful statements by USPS Officials?** We trust that you will respect our determination and our community need for Jonesville Post Office 75659.

Please do what is right and best for both the Jonesville community and the United States Postal Service. Continue Jonesville Post Office 75659. **USPS will benefit more by continuance of Jonesville Post Office than by discontinuance.** Our strengths are credits to Jonesville's community and to our postal clerk. After this very lengthy defense of our post office, it is somewhat difficult to maintain the same level of respect for USPS as we formerly held, but we are trying to be fair to those of you who did not create this travesty of justice. If a small rural post office has shown increases in revenue within your jurisdiction, save that post office. Discontinuing a revenue productive post office will only further tarnish USPS reputation. Save our post office. **Jonesville Post Office 75659 should be continued.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129

and

Friends of Jonesville Post Office
P. O. Box 51

Jonesville, Texas 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

Jonesville, Texas 75659

Ref 8.4
P7

MARKETING

Ref 8.5



November 2, 2011

Dr. Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, TX 75659-0129

Dear Dr. Vaughan:

This letter is in response to your correspondence, District Discontinuance Coordinator, dated October 11, 2011. Your correspondence was forwarded to my office for response.

Your interest in our review process for the Jonesville Post Office is appreciated. Information and data received prior to October 24, 2011, continues to be accepted and included in the review packet. I am forwarding your correspondence to the appropriate office for inclusion in this review packet.

Information available to the public has been posted at the Jonesville Post Office. Requests for operational information may be properly submitted through the Freedom of Information Act process.

If we may be of any additional assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Consumer Affairs office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debora L. Ebera".

Debora L. Ebera
Manager, Consumer and Industry Contact
951 W. Bethel Rd.
Coppell, TX 75099-9631

M:DLE:pe

Ref: CA106726005

August 31, 2011

Ref 8.6

District Manager and Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell TX 75099

Dear District Manager and Allison Rizan,

Enclosed are the additional signature pages as promised. I trust that these late entries will be accepted and put on the official record with the previous Petition mailed yesterday, August 30, 2011.

Also, I have enclosed information pertaining to historic sites and areas which were evidently overlooked when the financial statement/community report was prepared. It might have been easier to physically show you these sites in Jonesville, but perhaps these articles and photos will suffice as proof of their existence in this 164 year old community. As expressed at the community meeting on August 27, 2011, Jonesville is not a typical small community. Our residents, businesses, and historic sites are spread out over several miles from the post office. Jonesville has been a very wide spread community for years. The historical significance of this community has been documented in Texas literature, and I trust that if you have any doubts whatsoever, the Harrison County Historical Courthouse Museum has many records that can substantiate Jonesville's origin, the **pre-Civil War railroad** from Swanson's Landing through Jonesville, the **Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan Home** and Texas State Historic Landmark, **Locust Grove Plantation** and Texas State Historic Landmark, **Concord Cemetery**, **Old Border Baptist Church**, and **T. C. Lindsey & Company** which evolved from the initial 1847 trading post....all of which are in Jonesville, Texas 75659.

Do you need documentation that there are other businesses in Jonesville in addition to T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store? **EXCO Resources** (formerly named Winchester Oil/Westchester Gas) was started here in Jonesville by Sammy Vaughan, the man who designed and built the current post office building. He was killed in a plane crash, and one of his daughters became CEO of his company. Her name is Kim Scrivener, and she is the manager of the Jonesville Museum which serves as lessor for the post office building. Kim Scrivener is the person who offered the USPS lease rental agent a 50 % reduction in lease fees on August 12th. The office building for EXCO was hit by lightning and burned. EXCO still is a Jonesville Post Office business customer. **The Jonesville Museum** was destroyed last year by a tornado. The slab is just north of the post office. Both buildings were built around the same time in the late 80's. **TGGT** is a very large Texas Gas Gathering and Transmission pipeline company which provides service throughout this region. They recently built a new office building in Jonesville which is located on FM 134 and at the site of a large compression station. There are other small business entities in Jonesville which don't have "store front" shopping locations. Jonesville has philanthropists, investors, carpenters, back yard auto mechanics, oil field workers, home-based businesses, and other business interests.

Ref 8.6
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If one is not familiar with a community, its characteristics are often overlooked or misjudged. Perhaps the person who prepared the official financial statement/report about Jonesville's Post Office and the community served, only saw one place to shop and recorded only one business. That was an unfortunate mistake in USPS research. Hopefully, you will correct the records and reconsider the true characteristics of this community and its residents. I guarantee you that I do not fit under the umbrella of "retiree" or "commuter," nor do many other Jonesville residents. While there are some retirees and some commuters in Jonesville, the percentages reported in the official USPS statement are very incorrect and misrepresented.

You must know by now that our small rural post office has experienced a **significant increase in revenue** over the last three years rather than a decline. That is a fact recorded in the financial statement of Jonesville's Post Office which should be celebrated. There is no doubt that small rural post offices serve a major need. Why would an Area Manager recommend to a District Manager that a successful rural post office be closed? Why would an Area or District Manager just sign such a legal document without making sure its content truthfully represents the community being considered for discontinuance? Please look beyond the obviously incorrect USPS Area/District interpretation of our community as recorded in that financial statement/report and grasp our truthful increase in revenue in the palms of your hands and reverse the recommendation for discontinuance.

Devotion to our Jonesville Post Office was certainly obvious at the community meeting. Should you choose to maintain the current recommendation for discontinuance, residents and postal patrons will be displeased and this battle will continue. Would it not make sense to please the majority of the community and continue the Jonesville Post Office 75659 rather than to please only a few rural route residents who live in our Jonesville area? **Perhaps Waskom Post Office should discontinue some of its rural deliveries to Jonesville area residents who live in relative close proximity to Jonesville Post Office 75659.** Fewer residents would be inconvenienced and negatively impacted. Residents and businesses in Jonesville prefer post office box delivery rather than street delivery because it is safer and more secure. Jonesville residents and businesses would have to drive 2600 miles extra per year to get their mail in Waskom. That scenario would greatly impact the majority of residents and businesses. Please reconsider the recommendation and propose that Jonesville's Post Office be continued, that Waskom's Post Office discontinue rural delivery to Jonesville residents, and that Jonesville's small rural post office should be celebrated for increasing revenues as compared to the many revenue declines which have been reported across the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659-0129

October 20,2011

Ref 8.7

Timothy J. Vierling
USPS Acting District Manager
Dallas Customer Service and Sales
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9998

Dear Mr. Vierling,

Thank you for replying to my letter of concern sent in August. It is important that you understand Jonesville residents' concerns about the "Proposal for Closure of Jonesville TX Post Office....." which was put on display in our post office and supposedly the Waskom Post Office. Mr. Frank Richard's recommendation was based on insufficient accumulation of information as evidenced in perusing the content in the report he signed and submitted to District Manager Victor Benavides on August 4th. Residents have reviewed that very shallow and incorrect document's description of Jonesville. Content is not true and represents the primary reason our community has challenged the District's acceptance of Mr. Richard's recommendation without verification of facts he put into print. We have made multiple attempts to correct those misrepresentations, but it is very unclear as to whether or not District Officials will make a fair and unbiased judgment on the true facts which describe Jonesville. After reading Mr. Richard's official financial statement and proposal which his signature verifies that the content was used as the basis for his recommendation, one would have to surmise that USPS credibility is in question. I know that there are honest postal service employees in the District. I know that officials in your jurisdiction have been given a very difficult task, but when a discontinuance study is supposed to be properly conducted, every attempt must be made to do just that. Mr. Richards did not submit truthful or accurate information about our community. Furthermore, the financial statement contained contradictory statements.

Jonesville Post Office 75659 has shown a significant increase in revenue over the past few years.....not a "steady decline" or "slight increase." The fact that a small rural post office has made such an increase should indicate to District Officials that something has been going right in that office and therefore that office should be continued.

Your letter to me stated "I apologize that you were given the impression that the meeting was to explain the study findings." For clarity, I have attached a copy of the letter Frank Richards sent to post office box holders, and if you read paragraph eight of his official notification letter, it clearly states

"A community meeting will be held to explain the study findings and to address community concerns."

That statement made it very clear that in order to discuss findings, one must have conducted the study.

Ref 8.7

Mr. Vierling, if Mr. Richards had properly gathered true facts about Jonesville, had secured necessary documentation for his assertions, and had made a decision based on facts and documentation, USPS would not be subjecting Jonesville Post Office 75659 and Jonesville residents to the discontinuance process and the necessary time consuming and stressful defense actions. Had USPS District Officials accepted the fact that misjudgment had been made by the Area Manager and had USPS District Officials given our community substantiated evidence that our post office was unworthy of existence, our community may not have been as assertive. p²

Unfortunately, our residents have not received sensible answers to most of our questions. While your response to me obviously was a "real" attempt to address one of my concerns, most letters from District Officials have not addressed specific concerns, but rather have offered general and categorical responses some of which did not apply to specific questions or topics mentioned at all. As an example, I have received identical standardized responses for multiple letters I submitted and for letters which contained varying content and concerns. I realize that USPS employees have been advised not to discuss matters with customers, but if a customer takes the time, makes the effort, assumes the expense for submitting concerns, USPS should respond appropriately, not just simply with a general statement, standardized statement, or categorical statement none of which address the concern.

I realize that you became involved as District Manager of the jurisdiction in which Jonesville Post Office 75659 is situated after the discontinuance process began. It is very important to Jonesville residents that you are fully aware of the shortcomings of the preliminary research conducted which were used as basis for Mr. Richard's decision to recommend our post office for discontinuance. We would like to believe that our post office and community are being given fair treatment, but after the various actions taken or not taken by those entrusted with the discontinuance process, how can we be confident or certain that Jonesville will receive fair consideration?

Mr. Vierling, please review the most recent and current financial records applicable to Jonesville Post Office 75659. Take a look at increases stamp sales, increased post office box rentals, and increased mail volume. Please consider that our community was unaware that our post office was in jeopardy when Postmaster Lloyd Burkhalter left postal service in 2008. USPS did not advise our community of insufficient customer demand or the need for increased revenues and mail volume at that time. We became aware when the July 27th RAO Initiative list showed Jonesville as a candidate for study for discontinuance. Review what our community has accomplished in response since July 27, 2011. Had we known in 2008 and had USPS filled the postmaster position or properly trained the PMR, speculate how much more revenue and support could have been accomplished. This small rural community needs its post office to preserve Jonesville's community identity. Closing our post office will certainly cause demise on the community and its residents. Our post office was in operation before Waskom, Karnack, Elysian Fields, and Scottsville. Our post office will celebrate its 165th anniversary in January of 2012. This historical community is well recognized across the region. Bus loads of tourists visit historic Jonesville. Loss of

Ref 8.7
P 3

post office and zip code identity will severely and negatively impact of our community for post office location and zip code are heavily used when developing maps which identify worthy community listings.

One reason I have sent "copies" of letters addressed to District Officials to other USPS Officials is due to the lack of District response to concerns and to the great injustice served to our community in the official proposal document that resulted in this discontinuance process. The list of injustices is very lengthy. I have even questioned whether or not some of my letters were received by the person to whom my concerns were addressed. It was very very very difficult to determine who was District Manager of Customer Service and Sales and who was District Manager. Several letters were addressed to job title rather than an individual's name because identification was not provided by USPS. Jonesville residents still think that your District had its mind made up about discontinuance of our post office before we were sent notification letters. Residents have not received positive support from District officials or acknowledgement that the Area Manager greatly misrepresented our community. I have maintained a comprehensive file of letters sent and responses received. No response openly stated USPS regret for misrepresenting our community, our residents, our post office productivity. I hope you will thoroughly review the misrepresentations and the truth as submitted by me, residents, and Friends of Jonesville Post Office. I am forwarding additional information to the Discontinuance Coordinator today. We previously submitted documentation of historic sites and events, businesses, organizations, churches, and non-profit entities in Jonesville. We are sending supplementary and additional listings of home-based and self-employed businesses in Jonesville. We are providing summary responses to surveys sent by Friends of Jonesville Post Office which should help convey better understanding of the community. I hope that YOU will make sure that our efforts and submissions are granted full consideration.

A small rural post office which has shown significant increases in revenue over the last few years should be continued. A small rural community which has shown needs for its post office due to maintaining community identity should have its post office continued. A small rural community which has demonstrated that there are many more businesses than just the one business as reported by the Area Manager should have its post office continued. A small rural post office which can be self-sustaining, and Jonesville Post Office 75659 has shown that potential, should be continued.

You provided an answer about USPS not recognizing rural delivery residents as residents of Jonesville. Please consider the unique situations of small rural communities. There are only a few rural delivery residents in Jonesville, but their address is listed as either Waskom or Karnack. In a city, are house delivery customers not considered part of the city? Our community expands a widespread area. There are five rural delivery residents living less than a mile from our post office. Those residents use Jonesville Post Office 75659 for money orders, package mailing, letter mailing, and other services. They don't drive to Waskom to buy stamps. They use Jonesville Post Office. Along Bellview Road which is in Jonesville and west of Jonesville Post Office, the first three houses have Jonesville zip code 75659. The next two houses have

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p 4

Waskom zip code 75692. The next houses have Jonesville zip code 75659. Waskom has clearly defined city limits and those city boundaries are not sitting in the middle of Jonesville, How can residents be denied existence in Jonesville when their homes are 5 1/2 miles from Waskom and are situated west of Jonesville Post Office? Waskom is well to the east of Jonesville. I truly hope that District evaluators have had experience living in rural areas and working in rural areas. If one does not have that understanding from first hand experience, one's understanding can be very limited in scope.

Also of concern is the report by rural delivery residents of Jonesville that the Waskom Rural Carrier advised new residents whose homes are located less than a mile from Jonesville Post Office 75659 that they should install rural roadside mail boxes to achieve delivery service. Who encouraged Waskom Rural Carrier to impose such impactful preference and personal financial gain on residents located in another community? Is that the type of ethical service condoned by the United States Postal Service? We have submitted one resident of Jonesville and Waskom rural delivery customer's survey responses in today's mailing to the District Discontinuance Coordinator. If Waskom Post Office is permitted to lure rural customers away from Jonesville Post Office 75659 by such action, then USPS really has problems beyond financial matters. Such problems should be addressed.

If you have questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience. My grandfather was a rural carrier. My aunt was Postmaster in Jonesville for 35 years. My family has always supported Jonesville's post office. Jonesville residents will continue to support Jonesville's post office. Jonesville's businesses will continued to support Jonesville's post office. Closing our post office, subjecting our residents and businesses to loss of 75659 zip code identity and resultant loss of community identity, forcing post office box holders to either drive 2600 miles more per year for mail retrieval or to risk loss, theft, vandalism of mail at unattended rural roadside mail boxes in a well documented crime area in the county **will negatively impact patronage to the United States Postal Service.** Customers will seek alternative means for communication. Those with internet access will seek internet bill payment, automatic bank transactions online, and delivery from competing companies such as UPS and Fed Ex. Currently, Jonesville residents and rural residents who live less than a mile from our post office use Jonesville Post Office. This rural community needs its post office. Preserve the GOOD. Eliminate the inefficient. Make positive changes to improve workload efficiency which encourages overall USPS support rather than anger about discontinuance.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Dr. Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

Enclosure: Copy of Frank Richard's Notification Letter to Jonesville Residents

Copy of Charla Absolom's Survey Responses and Comments submitted 10/20/2011. ^{Ref 8.} P

The Absolom family moved to Jonesville about a year and a half ago. They were approached by the Waskom rural carrier who advised them to install a rural mail box for postal service. They did as they were told rather than to question why. After two thefts of mail at their house, they have expressed concerns for discontinuance of Jonesville Post Office and stated that they would rent a post office box in Jonesville if District officials decide in favor of Jonesville Post Office.

Please note their response to question #3 in which they give their reason for having rural delivery. The Absoloms live less than a third of a mile from Jonesville Post Office 75659 and frequently go to Jonesville's post office rather than Waskom for service.

JONESVILLE POST OFFICE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Ref 8.7
p 6

Please answer the following questions to help accurately describe our community for USPS.

1. How long have you been a resident of Jonesville? 1.5 year(s)
2. How long have you been a Rural Mail Delivery resident? 1.5 year (s)
3. Why did you choose Rural Mail Delivery rather than Post Office Box delivery?
convenience ☒ suggested by mail carrier ☐ PO box rent too high?
other (explain) _____

4. Do you have internet access in your home? (circle one) ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. How many people (all ages) live in your home? 3
6. How many work? 2 How many retirees? 1
7. Do any workers in your home commute to work? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Does anyone in your home own their own business? ☐ Yes ☒ No
6. Are there any handicapped or disabled persons living in your home? Yes ☒ No
7. Have you been victimized by burglary or theft in Jonesville? ☒ Yes ☐ No

How many times over the last ten years? *Mail remove from door @ the house 2x*

13. Which is a safer and more secure delivery location for mail? (check one)

☒ A rented and locked post office mail box inside a post office

☐ An unattended rural roadside mail box

14. If the majority of residents in Jonesville get their mail delivered to a post office mail box in Jonesville, would you be willing to do the same to keep a post office in Jonesville? ☒ Yes ☐ No

15. Would \$36 rent per year for a post office box burden you financially? Yes ☒ No

16. If given a choice, which post office would you rather drive to for getting your mail?

☒ Jonesville ☐ Scottsville ☐ Waskom

Optional Comment Form

Ref 8.7
P 7

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the JONESVILLE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.

2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

I mail letters to my family. Maybe I'm old fashioned, but it is more personal and sends the love better. I also pay some of my bills by US mail. I don't feel comfortable leaving it in my house box.

Charles Absalom

Name of Postal Customer

Charles Absalom

Signature of Postal Customer

1831 FM 134

Mailing Address

Waskom TX 75692

City, State, and ZIP Code

15 Oct 11

Date



Ref 8.7
P 8

08/17/2011

Postal Customer
JONESVILLE, TX 75659

This letter provides notice that the U.S. Postal Service is conducting a discontinuance feasibility study of facility operations at the Jonesville Post Office into the Waskom Post Office.

The office is being studied due to declining office workload, which may indicate that maintaining this facility is not warranted. The revenue and/or the volume this office has been in a steady decline over the past several years..

A discontinuance feasibility study involves a review of delivery and retail operations of a postal facility. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the facility's operations in a continuing effort to meet customers' retail needs, improve productivity, increase efficiency, and cut costs.

Customer needs have changed dramatically. Many customers receive and pay their bills online and communicate by email and text message. In addition, many customers demand easier, more convenient access to Postal Service products and services when and where they want them — online, on their smart phones and at the stores they frequent.

If a decision is ultimately made to discontinue the Jonesville Post Office and you are a Post Office Box customer, you will have the option of Post Office Box delivery at the Waskom Post Office, or you may receive carrier delivery at your residence. To request delivery, submit a request for establishment of rural delivery service, PS Form 4027, Petition for Change in Rural Delivery, is available at the Jonesville Post Office. The Waskom Post Office has retail hours from 900 to 1600 Monday through Friday and closed on Saturday, which is 5.0 miles away.

Retail services would continue to be available through a variety of channels beyond traditional brick-and-mortar facilities, such as the www.usps.com website, non-city delivery carriers, stamp consignment locations, and Stamps by Mail, Fax, and Phone.

We value your opinions during this review process. As the Postal Manager responsible for all Post Offices in your area, I would like your input concerning your postal needs. We encourage you to complete and return the enclosed survey in the pre-addressed postage-paid envelope provided. Your responses along with others received, will be included in the study and considered carefully before any final determination regarding discontinuance is made. Please submit your response no later than 09/06/2011.

A community meeting will be held to explain the study findings and to address community concerns. Postal representatives will be at the Jonesville Post Office, 2335 FM 134 Jonesville Texas 75659 on 08/27/2011 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to answer questions and provide information about our service. You may wish to discuss and submit your questionnaire at that time.

Written comments may be hand-delivered to the Jonesville Post Office or mailed to:

District Discontinuance Coordinator
DALLAS PFC
951 W Bethel Rd
Coppell TX, 75099-9331

The study consists of a publicly available record, so please be advised that any information or responses that you furnish will be visible to others.

A proposal that further explains the nature and justification of the proposed change in service and requests for customer comment may be posted prior to the community meeting. Comments received from the questionnaire, community meeting, and proposal will be considered prior to making a final determination.

If you have any questions concerning this discontinuance feasibility study, please contact Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator Contact at (972) 393-6485.

Sincerely,

Frank Richards
Manager, Post Office Operations

Enclosures:
Customer Survey/Pre-addressed postage-paid envelope
Summary of Postal Service Retail Facility Change Regulations

August 15, 2011

Dallas District Manager
Customer Service & Sales
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell TX 75099-9998

Ref 8.7
P 8

Dear District Manager of Customer Service and Sales,

This letter represents our Jonesville, Texas community's request to keep 75659 and Jonesville as our address should if for some reason yet unknown to us the United States Postal Service should decide to discontinue our post office. I have been notified by Allison Rizan that she is holding a community meeting in our post office on August 27th. In my phone conversation with Allison, she indicated that she was evaluating our post office, but a final decision had not yet been made to discontinue our post office. We want to be certain that whatever she decides, Jonesville and 75659 will continue to be our address. Jonesville has had postal service since 1847. We strongly desire to remain an identifiable community with our 75659 zip code. Please support our efforts to maintain this identity regardless of what decision the District Discontinuance Coordinator decides/concludes. We think we have a solid case for remaining open due to our strong support, increased revenues, and an offer last week to greatly reduce the monthly lease amount by the lessor. Keep Jonesville 75659 serving the community as is has for so many years.

Thank you,

Dr. Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659
903 687-3403

c. Postmaster General, Patrick R. Donahoe

August 15, 2011

Ref 8.7
p 9

Dallas District Manager
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell TX 75099-9998

Dear District Manager,

Allison Rizan has set up a community meeting in Jonesville, Texas for acquiring citizen input about the importance of and need for the Jonesville Post Office 75659. I spoke with her yesterday in an attempt to schedule the meeting at our store at a later date, but she had already confirmed that meeting to be at the small post office building a short distance from our store. Please have the USPS District Discontinuance Coordinator that will be conducting the meeting bring with her the financial statement by line item showing what the USPS projects to save and with proper references which we should have the ability to review for statement validity. The official USPS statement should include additional expenses projected to be incurred by making any proposed changes to our post office [Reference: Post Office Operations Manual (POM) 123.612 and 123.613 (b) where it states "the economic savings to the postal Service," and where it states "to propose the discontinuance of a particular post office are fully articulated and disclosed at a stage that enables customer participation to make a helpful contribution....". We want a written response to our request for the financial statement.

What will happen to the information your representative gains from this community meeting? Who will get the information and what will be done with it. We would like a copy of the results.

Who will make the final decision about our Jonesville Post Office 75659?

What date can we expect to be notified of the decision?

Will each community member be notified by letter? If not, who in the community will receive the written notice?

We would like the name and address of the person to write to if we haven't heard anything about a decision within 30 days of the date of the town meeting. We want to make absolutely certain that we receive prompt notification of the final decision.

We also want to maintain our Jonesville, Texas 75659 identity permanently and sincerely hope that you will make arrangements for that permanent Jonesville, Texas 75659 mailing address

I look forward to hearing from you and receiving the financial statement mentioned above. I hope that you will help us keep the Jonesville Post Office 75659 open. u

Ref 8.7
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Sincerely,

Dr. Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659-0129
903 687-3403

c. USPS Area Vice President
Governor Rick Perry
U. S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
U. S. Senator John Cornyn
U. S. Representative Louie Gohmert
Texas Senator Kevin Eltife
Texas State Representative Bryan Hughes

August 18, 2011

Ref 8.7
P10

Dear Dallas District Manager,

I previously elected to send this identical letter to you through Express Mail, but I want to make sure that you in fact received it in a timely manner. It has been very difficult finding to whom to write other than the designated Manager of Post Office Operations, Frank Richards, and the District Discontinuance Coordinator, Allison Rizan. I am very frustrated with the suggested possible closure of the Jonesville Texas Post Office 75659. The District Discontinuance Coordinator and Manager of Post Office Operations evidently did not send me a community notice or questionnaire to complete or perhaps delivery of my questionnaire has been delayed for some other reason. I have enclosed a copy of my original letter to you and a copy of my letter to the District Manager of Customer Service & Sales because in my letter to that office, I made formal request that Jonesville Texas 75659 remain in our community address if for some reason, your officers and the United States Postal Service should decide to close our post office. If we lose our Jonesville Texas 75659 identity, we will suffer and it will be unnecessarily devastating to the community residents and our other major and historical store front business in Jonesville, T. C. Lindsey & Company, which also has been in operation since 1847.

Please preserve the dignity and identity of Jonesville, Texas 75659 and continue our post office. We want to keep Jonesville, Texas 75659 in our address as we have for years. Don't take our identity away from us, please.

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659
903 687-3403
leliabwb@shreve.net

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From: "Lelia Vaughan" <leliabwb@shreve.net>
Reply-To: <leliabwb@shreve.net>
To: "Victor Benavides"
<victor.benavides@usps.gov>
Cc: "Tracy Ferguson" <tracy.ferguson@prc.gov>
Subject: Jonesville, Texas Post Office 75659
Date: Wed 08/24/11 05:16 PM

Attachments

| Name | Type | Save View |
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| Message | text/plain | Save |

Dear Mr. Benavides,

I have been trying for weeks to identify the name of the Dallas District Manager for seeking assistance. Finally, I found your name on a web page. Our postal clerk told me that she was not supposed to give out employee confidential information, and I respect her judgement for that and hope that you do, too. It is difficult to ascertain to whom to send letters of concern. I still do not have a mailing address for you. Please provide that to me so that I can send you a hard copy of my requests and additional concerns. I did try to send you a letter and then sent another letter by Express Mail to Dallas District Manager, but at this point, I am not sure if you received it or not because I have not received a reply from you.

My reason for wanting to contact you is for support in maintaining the existence of our Jonesville, Texas Post Office. I also seek support for preserving the identity of our community's name and zip code 75659 in future postal service should district officials determine that our post office should be discontinued. It is very difficult to get responses from USPS officials. I've sent letters to Deborah Eberra, Allison Rizan, Frank Richards, Linda Welch, Patrick Donahoe, Ruth Goldway, and Tracy Richardson. As of today, August 24th, I have received responses from only Linda Welch, Ruth Goldway, and Tracy Richardson. Lack of responses from those within your jurisdiction does not seem proper or fair given the seriousness of our rural community being subjected to possible closure of its backbone post office which has provided service since 1847. Community residents gather at the post office and visit with each other. Residents read the bulletin board in the lobby of our post office. Jonesville Post Office 75659 is patronized by very proud residents who cherish their community.

Mr. Benavides, it is disheartening to read the notification from Frank Richards that we have to drive a minimum of 10 miles and even up to 20 or more roundtrip miles to go to Waskom's Post Office for safe and secure post office box mail retrieval. We don't want to be inconveniences that way. Our other option granted in Mr. Richard's letter of notification, is to seek rural delivery of our mail at the edge of our county or state roadways. Many residents simply do not want to risk rural delivery because of theft in our county. In a note from

Harrison County Sheriff's Office dated 8/24/11, Jay Webb stated that there have been 5 reported burglaries within our 75659 within the last 6 months. Burglary is a serious concern to our residents which has prompted great dependence on post office rental mail boxes.

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Our community is blessed to have the oil/gas industry present in our community. EXCO-BG was founded right here in Jonesville years ago as Winchester Oil Production/Westchester Gas by my cousin Sam Vaughan III. He further started Texas Gas Gathering and Talco Midstream. The EXCO/TGG office building suffered fire damage due to a lightning strike a year or so ago which necessitated temporary office relocation to Marshall. Texas Gas Gathering has now just opened a new office in Jonesville and has once again begun mail delivery through Jonesville Post Office 75659. EXCO Production still has mail services through our post office. Select Services which transports oil, salt water, etc. for oil/gas companies also has a post office box in Jonesville. There are other important businesses in Jonesville such as the 164 year old T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store. If you received any of my previous letters, you've already heard about that store and its significance to the years of postal service prior to USPS wanting a larger facility which Sam Vaughan III built to post office specifications and is currently being used. In fact, his daughter Kim Vaughan Scrivener, is manager of The Jonesville Museum who is lessor for the building the post office currently is using. She offered to reduce the lease rental fees by 50 percent to help keep the post office a stable force in this community, but your designated USPS lease rental agent did not seem interested.

Jonesville's Concord Cemetery and Border Baptist Church are very historic in this community. Concord Cemetery Association is a post office box renter. We have non-profit organizations here as well such as The Jonesville Foundation and The Ark and Dove non-profit entities. We have a home-based embroidery business in Jonesville. We have River 8 Farms, LLC which rent a postal box and protects lands for wildlife. There are other entities, but the point is that Jonesville is blessed with many businesses other than the general store.

Jonesville has a colorful history and represents a significant contribution to the county, state and region. There is a County Historical Marker in Jonesville. The Dr. S. F. Vaughan home site is a State Historic Landmark. Swanson's Landing Texas Highway historical marker is across the road from his home. Surely you must have read about the pre-Civil War railroad from Swanson' Landing on Caddo Lake through Jonesville to Marshall? Archeologists were just visiting us last week regarding location of one of the more significant Caddo Indian villages such as the one at Caddo Lake. There's much history that is important to this county, this state, this region, this country.

I could write more, but I truly hope that you have thoroughly researched the significance of this small rural community prior to putting us on a discontinuance listing. I received my notification letter from Frank Richards on August 22nd....just five days from the community meeting he called. I knew about it earlier because I called Allison Rizan after she had talked to my sister. I tried to reschedule the meeting at a better time for residents..especially senior citizens who could suffer health issues in extremely hot temperatures that we have been having and are projected to have Saturday at the hottest time of the day, 2:30 pm.,

but she was firm in stating that the time, date, and place were set. Initially, she wanted our store to host the meeting, but our store does not have air conditioning. It was 109 degrees last week at 2:30 pm.

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I've suggested the following recommendations for keeping Jonesville Post Office 75659 open and serving the community:

1. accept the 50 percent reduction of lease rental fees from The Jonesville Museum thereby reducing expenses
2. increase post office box rental fees and increase revenues
3. eliminate the hours of window service on Saturdays which would lower wages paid to the clerk
4. reduce the hours of operation each day which would improve workload figures and reduce wages to the clerk

Allison Rizan told me specifically that our post office was put on the discontinuance list due to decline in revenue and low work load. I think it is highly likely that Jonesville's revenue has increased rather than declined. I think Jonesville's residents would be pleased if you would stop the unnecessary closure of our post office.

Could you please send me the name and address of the person to whom I can write to preserve our community identity and zip code 75659 should officials try to push discontinuance on us before we have been able to discover that name and address???? I think it might be a District Manager of Customer Service and Sales. I did sent letters to the District Manager of Customer Service and Sales even though I could not ascertain the identity of the USPS employee in that position.

Small rural post offices have needs unlike larger communities. Why should rural communities suffer loss of their post offices if, in fact, a rural post office is not significantly contributing to USPS budgetary loss? Give our historic community a chance to survive without negatively impacting residents, businesses, and not for profit entities.

Lelia Vaughan
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659

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August 31, 2011

Ref 8.7
P 14

District Manager and Allison Rizan, District Discontinuance Coordinator
United States Postal Service
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell TX 75099

Dear District Manager and Allison Rizan,

Enclosed are the additional signature pages as promised. I trust that these late entries will be accepted and put on the official record with the previous Petition mailed yesterday, August 30, 2011.

Also, I have enclosed information pertaining to historic sites and areas which were evidently overlooked when the financial statement/community report was prepared. It might have been easier to physically show you these sites in Jonesville, but perhaps these articles and photos will suffice as proof of their existence in this 164 year old community. As expressed at the community meeting on August 27, 2011, Jonesville is not a typical small community. Our residents, businesses, and historic sites are spread out over several miles from the post office. Jonesville has been a very wide spread community for years. The historical significance of this community has been documented in Texas literature, and I trust that if you have any doubts whatsoever, the Harrison County Historical Courthouse Museum has many records that can substantiate Jonesville's origin, the **pre-Civil War railroad** from Swanson's Landing through Jonesville, the **Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan Home** and Texas State Historic Landmark, **Locust Grove Plantation** and Texas State Historic Landmark, **Concord Cemetery**, **Old Border Baptist Church**, and **T. C. Lindsey & Company** which evolved from the initial 1847 trading post....all of which are in Jonesville, Texas 75659.

Do you need documentation that there are other businesses in Jonesville in addition to T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store? **EXCO Resources** (formerly named Winchester Oil/Westchester Gas) was started here in Jonesville by Sammy Vaughan, the man who designed and built the current post office building. He was killed in a plane crash, and one of his daughters became CEO of his company. Her name is Kim Scrivener, and she is the manager of the Jonesville Museum which serves as lessor for the post office building. Kim Scrivener is the person who offered the USPS lease rental agent a 50 % reduction in lease fees on August 12th. The office building for EXCO was hit by lightning and burned. EXCO still is a Jonesville Post Office business customer. **The Jonesville Museum** was destroyed last year by a tornado. The slab is just north of the post office. Both buildings were built around the same time in the late 80's. **TGGT** is a very large Texas Gas Gathering and Transmission pipeline company which provides service throughout this region. They recently built a new office building in Jonesville which is located on FM 134 and at the site of a large compression station. There are other small business entities in Jonesville which don't have "store front" shopping locations. Jonesville has philanthropists, investors, carpenters, back yard auto mechanics, oil field workers, home-based businesses, and other business interests.

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If one is not familiar with a community, its characteristics are often overlooked or misjudged. Perhaps the person who prepared the official financial statement/report about Jonesville's Post Office and the community served, only saw one place to shop and recorded only one business. That was an unfortunate mistake in USPS research. Hopefully, you will correct the records and reconsider the true characteristics of this community and its residents. I guarantee you that I do not fit under the umbrella of "retiree" or "commuter," nor do many other Jonesville residents. While there are some retirees and some commuters in Jonesville, the percentages reported in the official USPS statement are very incorrect and misrepresented.

You must know by now that our small rural post office has experienced a **significant increase in revenue** over the last three years rather than a decline. That is a fact recorded in the financial statement of Jonesville's Post Office which should be celebrated. There is no doubt that small rural post offices serve a major need. Why would an Area Manager recommend to a District Manager that a successful rural post office be closed? Why would an Area or District Manager just sign such a legal document without making sure its content truthfully represents the community being considered for discontinuance? Please look beyond the obviously incorrect USPS Area/District interpretation of our community as recorded in that financial statement/report and grasp our truthful increase in revenue in the palms of your hands and reverse the recommendation for discontinuance.

Devotion to our Jonesville Post Office was certainly obvious at the community meeting. Should you choose to maintain the current recommendation for discontinuance, residents and postal patrons will be displeased and this battle will continue. Would it not make sense to please the majority of the community and continue the Jonesville Post Office 75659 rather than to please only a few rural route residents who live in our Jonesville area? **Perhaps Waskom Post Office should discontinue some of its rural deliveries to Jonesville area residents who live in relative close proximity to Jonesville Post Office 75659.** Fewer residents would be inconvenienced and negatively impacted. Residents and businesses in Jonesville prefer post office box delivery rather than street delivery because it is safer and more secure. Jonesville residents and businesses would have to drive 2600 miles extra per year to get their mail in Waskom. That scenario would greatly impact the majority of residents and businesses. Please reconsider the recommendation and propose that Jonesville's Post Office be continued, that Waskom's Post Office discontinue rural delivery to Jonesville residents, and that Jonesville's small rural post office should be celebrated for increasing revenues as compared to the many revenue declines which have been reported across the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Lelia Vaughan, Ed. D.
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville TX 75659-0129

Ref 8.8

October 20, 2011

RE: In Defense of Jonesville Post Office 75659

District Discontinuance Coordinator
United States Postal Service
Dallas District
951 W. Bethel Road
Coppell, Texas 75099-9631

Dear District Discontinuance Coordinator and District Officials,

Enclosed are additional supportive signatures, information, and statements of fact relative to Jonesville Post Office 75659 and the Jonesville community. As should be obvious by now, Jonesville residents, businesses, organizations, and area wide customers of Jonesville Post Office are very opposed to the proposal to discontinue the post office which has served the area for 164 years. Residents of Jonesville and the surrounding area are very concerned about this historic community losing its post office and its zip code.....both of which strongly represent community identity in this unincorporated small rural area of Harrison County.

Please take a look at the significant changes in mail volume and stamp sales in the Jonesville Post Office since Jonesville residents became aware of the possible loss of our post office. The figures should indicate a positive direction that can be continued beyond the very necessary letters in defense of our post office. Residents are very committed to continuing to show support, and customers from all over the area have made the same commitment. If knowledge had been shared by USPS when Lloyd Burkhalter left his position as Jonesville Postmaster in 2008 that there was no intent on filling the postmaster vacancy due to inefficient workload, inadequate revenue production, and insufficient customer demand, perhaps the Jonesville community would have responded with overwhelming support for maintaining its much needed post office. We were not given that opportunity to display financial support for our post office prior to the USPS proposal for discontinuance. We learned of the fate on July 27, 2011 as the RAO Initiative was reported across the country.

As you are aware, Jonesville residents started receiving notification letters beginning August 18, 2011, but some residents did not receive letters of notification until after August 22, 2011. Even though USPS does not consider rural mail delivery customers who reside in Jonesville to be Jonesville Post Office customers, those residents are Jonesville Post Office customers and will be impacted as well as post office mail box holders. The community meeting was held on August 27th. USPS did not provide public service announcements about the meeting. USPS did not post signs or submit articles to the local newspapers. Instead, USPS sent a public service announcement out on August 28, 2011 (the day after our community meeting) which stated future community meeting dates and reported that Jonesville's community meeting had already been held. Only post office box holders were sent USPS notification letters and official questionnaires. No rural delivery residents in Jonesville who are also customers of Jonesville Post Office 75659 were sent comment forms or questionnaires. USPS did

not provide translated copies of their notification letter, questionnaire, or comment forms for Spanish speaking/reading residents and post office box holders. Our Jonesville community responded and has continued to respond to USPS Area and District oversights.

In an effort to defend our community identity, concerned citizens and post office patrons formed a group to promote attendance at the community meeting, to provide updated information to residents, to submit contact information for letters of support, to prepare an accurate community description, and to correct the USPS misrepresentations which were put in print and on display as "Proposal to Close The Jonesville TX Post Office and Establish Service by Rural Route Service." Considerable effort was put forth to correct the misrepresentations such as providing photos of businesses and historic sites significant to Jonesville. Area Manager Frank Richards signed the proposal which contained many errors regarding our residents and community. **Friends of Jonesville Post Office** initiated a community study of residents and businesses, created and circulated a petition for residents and customers of Jonesville Post Office to sign, provided translation for Spanish speaking/reading post office box holders, and provided sample letters for residents to submit or use as guides for stating concerns, potential burdens, and impacts, **Friends of Jonesville Post Office** prepared and made available a questionnaire for residents and non-residents who are customers of Jonesville Post Office but who live in or receive their mail from another post office. Friends of Jonesville Post Office mailed 127 box holders a community survey. Results are representative of 74 resident respondents and post office box holders. Previously identified businesses received a business specific survey form. Self-employed and home-based businesses which had not yet been identified were provided the resident's survey form which provided knowledge of their business activity and concern for continuance of Jonesville Post Office. Business concerns expressed on those survey forms are enclosed. Non-resident and visitor comments and concerns are enclosed with supplementary petition signatures.

At the August 27th community meeting, residents showed full support for needing Jonesville Post Office 75659. Some residents stood outside in extreme 103 degree afternoon temperatures in efforts to show support. During the meeting one resident asked if all currently unoccupied post office boxes were rented, would it make a difference. She was serious and residents would have done that immediately if it would have made a difference. Lack of USPS response did not reflect any indication that such efforts would help the matter. That fact conveyed to the crowd that USPS had already made up its mind about discontinuance for why would a financially troubled institution such as the United States Postal Service not want to benefit from such a positive and financially productive display of support on the part of a community expressing needs for its post office? Residents challenged the content in the financial statement and in the community description that was obviously lacking true statements of facts about the community and its residents. Residents addressed the lessors offer to reduce the rent by fifty percent which would in essence make Jonesville's post office self-sustaining. A month passed before anyone from the USPS real estate office further responded to the lessor's verbal and written offers. According to communication

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received from the lessor, the USPS rental agent requested a renegotiated lease, provided the renegotiated lease with terminology to convey the 50% reduction in lease amount, and requested that the lessor sign and execute the lease and return it for consideration. The lessor submitted the executed lease, and hopefully USPS has executed the lease in an honest effort to sustain a rural post office rather than to reduce postal service expenses for continuing to pay the contractual rental fees through 2015 should the post office be discontinued. Negotiating a new lease which affords USPS a financial benefit without showing support for continuance of the post office would be a very unprofessional and publicly questioned action on the part of the United States Postal Service.

CORRECTIONS TO OFFICIAL PROPOSAL FOR DISCONTINUANCE

For clarity, statements in quotes are from USPS's "Proposal to Close Jonesville TX Post Office and Establish Service by Rural Route Service."

EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

- a. **"The community is comprised of 50% retirees, 50% commuters."** That statement is false, inappropriate, and very insufficient for describing the community. Twenty-nine of the 35 business post office box holders (large, small, and home-based) are located in Jonesville. Those business residents do not "commute" nor should they accurately be labeled "commuters." Of Jonesville residents who work, 50% reported working beyond the Waskom/Jonesville area, 45% reported working in Jonesville, and 5% reported working in Waskom. It is significant to report that the Jonesville area has experienced growth as a result of oil/gas exploration over the past few years with several Haynesville Shale wells being produced in Jonesville. Several residents work in the oil/gas fields throughout the area. Currently, most of those gas field workers are working in locations well beyond local areas. While there are some retirees in Jonesville, the reported percentages were not substantiated by USPS documented fact. Updated Census Bureau statistics for unincorporated rural communities will not be available until late in 2012 or early 2013. Friends of Jonesville Post Office's community survey results showed that only 17% of Jonesville residents are retired; 54% of Jonesville residents are working; and the remaining residents are either children, youth, college students, unemployed or caretakers in the home.
- b. **"Businesses and organizations include: T. C. Lindsey and Company."** That statement is insufficient and a very incomplete reporting of businesses in Jonesville. Substantiation of the existence of other businesses in Jonesville was forwarded to Allison Rizan in the District Discontinuance Office. As stated in "a." above, there are twenty-nine businesses (large, small, home based, self-employed located in Jonesville. Six other businesses were identified as Jonesville Post Office box holders. Thirty-five total businesses could be impacted by discontinuance of Jonesville Post office. That figure greatly disproves USPS consideration of only one business. Home-based businesses reported in the

Friends of Jonesville Post Office survey revealed appliance repair, small engine repair, construction, farrier/horseshoeing, investments, cleaning service, t-shirt design company, wildlife management, photo greeting card sales, estate management, property management, timber/oil/gas natural resource management, and other similar small businesses all of which would be impacted by any change in service rather than continuation of our Jonesville Post Office 75659. For purposes of documentation, the following list shows businesses and business post office box holders in Jonesville including Jonesville Post Office 75659 which will celebrate 165 years of postal service in 2012. Church and Non-Profit businesses are listed separately for clarity.

Businesses:

T. C. Lindsey & Company
 Jonesville Post Office 75659
 EXCO Resources
 TGGT
 Talco Midstream
 Superior Contractors
 Circle C Oilfield Services
 Select Energy Services
 Longpoint Corner Store
 Caddo Country Mini-Farms
 Richard M. Anderson, Attorney
 Ginny Hooper, Shady Lake, LLC
 Vaughan Properties, LLP
 Horace Ferrell Estates
 River 8 Farms, LLC
 Big Bluff Land Management
 C. Anderson
 LV Trust/investments
 RF investments
 MLV Trust/investments
 EVM Trust/investments
 JWM investments
 Canterbury Appliance and Small Engine Repair
 Custom T-Shirts, etc.
 Cason Business
 TexLa Operating
 Grayson Farrier/horseshoeing Service
 BT Photo Greeting Cards
 Millican Scrub Cleaning Service
 Willidlife Management Service

Non-Profit Organizations/Entities in the Jonesville Community:

The Jonesville Museum
 The Ark and Dove Foundation
 Concord Cemetery Association
 The Jonesville Foundation
 Old Border Baptist Church & Cemetery
 Bellview Baptist Church
 Lotta Road Church of God in Christ

All business respondents reported financial cost, time burdens and negative impacts on their respective businesses while taken away from their workplace to achieve delivery of mail from Waskom Post Office rather than Jonesville's post office. All business respondents reported that delivery of mail to unattended mail boxes on the rural roadside is too risky for important mail due to potential theft.

"Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services."

That statement is true of any community in the United States, but not appropriate in considering the impact on residents and businesses in Jonesville. Postal patrons in Jonesville have made statements that they would be impacted by increased financial costs and time burdens if the Jonesville Post Office were to be discontinued. In fact, 93% of the resident responses revealed that they would be burdened with financial costs and time burdens if they had to drive to Waskom Post Office to retrieve mail, and all Jonesville businesses reported concerns for additional financial costs, time taken away from their business, and time required to drive to Waskom Post Office should Jonesville's post office be discontinued. Ninety-five percent of Jonesville residents work in Jonesville and areas well beyond Waskom which could minimize time available for driving to Waskom Post Office. Concern is even more serious for those self-employed/home-based businesses that do not have anyone else to respond to customer inquiries while away from their office for extended periods of time which would be required to drive to Waskom Post Office.

Residents and businesses currently get mail delivered to a secure post office box. In order to continue safe mail retrieval, customers would either have to assume great risk in delivery of mail to unattended roadside mail boxes or be taken away from work or home to drive to Waskom Post Office. Neither option is good due to financial and time burdens which impose costs on the workplace and on the home. Furthermore, in addition to the Harrison County Sheriff's Department report of five burglaries and thefts in zip code 75659 in 2011, residents reported twelve other burglaries and thefts over the last ten years. Businesses reported seven additional burglaries and thefts over the past ten year period. Theft of roadside mail is a serious and well documented concern in Jonesville and is the primary reason most residents and businesses in Jonesville prefer secure post office box delivery of their mail. All respondents stated that unattended mail boxes on the roadside are not safe for delivery of important mail. One resident reported vandalism of her mail which prompted her to rent a post office box for safe and secure mail delivery. Her comment is included in the attached supplementary materials on her individual survey response. One rural delivery resident of Jonesville reported problems with safe and secure delivery at their rural roadside box. That resident's response is also enclosed.

"Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this proposal will not adversely affect the community."

That statement was based on improper evaluation of the community, its residents, and the needs of the community. That premature statement is in direct conflict with

the truthful description and characterization of Jonesville and is not supported by the residents and businesses in Jonesville. Friends of Jonesville Post Office's survey showed over 90% percent of residents and business respondents stated driving to Waskom Post Office for mail retrieval and postal service would result in burdens and render negative impacts of financial costs, time costs, driving costs, and time taken away from necessary business at home or office. Discontinuance of Jonesville Post Office will have a direct impact on each and every business and resident. Area and District Officials failed to adequately research the existence of businesses and community constituents prior to making a recommendation judgment.

Friends of Jonesville Post Office survey results showed that an overwhelming 90% majority of residents and businesses in Jonesville have acquired money orders and necessarily have concerns for accomplishing money orders efficiently through a rural carrier which necessitates a two day delivery time at best. An overwhelming majority of resident and business respondents further stated that unattended mail boxes represent serious threats to safe and secure mail retrieval/delivery in Jonesville. Well over ninety percent of residents and businesses stated that the post office is a place for community sharing, visiting, and information gathering relative to important local events and matters. The majority of Jonesville resident respondents reveled no computer access available in their homes. The majority of businesses in Jonesville do have computer access capability, but some smaller businesses do not have such capability. Lack of widespread and high speed internet access greatly limits communication in areas without such means and this does impact Jonesville. Friends of Jonesville Post Office survey results revealed seven homes with handicapped postal customers. Impacts on those handicapped residents could be more severe than other residents due to physical limitations making it difficult for rural mail box delivery and/or driving to another post office.

The historical significance of Jonesville was minimized in the official proposal document. An updated listing of historical events and sites was forwarded to Allison Rizan in the District Office and therefore will not be reiterated herein. However, it is important to mention that the historical significance of Jonesville and two of Jonesville's earliest businesses, T. C. Lindsey & Company and the United States Post Office in Jonesville, are attractive lures to the tourist industry. The old post office is on display inside the general store. Visitors often express desires to mail a post card from historic Jonesville and the post office which has served the community since 1847. When the store celebrated its 150th anniversary, well over 3000 visitors attended. Jonesville's Postmaster had a special stamp cancel created to celebrate the occasion. Many visitors went to the post office for that specific purpose. Bus loads of tourists visit the store annually and mail post cards. Many of those tourists get a Jonesville Store post card and walk next door to the post office to mail it. History, nostalgia, and memories of days of the past are very significant to the livelihood of the store and the community. **The identity of Jonesville is firmly grounded by the existence of Jonesville Post Office.** The store has two festivals per year for the community, neighboring communities, region, and neighboring states. The Texas Oil Man's ARK-LA-TEX Shoot-Out is held once a

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year in Jonesville on the grounds of the historic Dr. S. F. Vaughan homeplace. Oil and gas men from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas gather in friendly comradery and skeet shooting competition. Many of those oilmen visit the store and the post office. The Boo Run Motorcycle Rally Benefit for burn victims stops in Jonesville every fall and visits the store and post office. Many of the tourists and visitors who attend such gatherings have expressed concerns for the continuation of Jonesville and Jonesville's post office. At the request of some of those visitors, Friends of Jonesville Post Office provided opportunities for those concerned individuals to express such concerns by attaching their signatures to a supplementary petition to keep Jonesville's Post Office in operation and to sustain the continued historical identity of Jonesville. The supplementary petition and signatures are enclosed.

Loss of community identity and the impacts from such could greatly impact the historic general store and the frequency of tourist visitors to the community. Owners of T. C. Lindsey & Company personally fund the 164 year old business as a contribution and support of the historical significance of Jonesville which has been so widely acknowledged by citizens throughout Texas, neighboring states, and folks from across the United States.. A Village Post Office would not be practical for the store because it would impose greater burdens and constraints compared to any foreseeable or possible financial return. VPO is not a viable option for T. C. Lindsey & Company.

Furthermore, USPS has tarnished geographical identification delineation of Jonesville due to postal service policy which states that residency is determined by delivery means rather than geographical location.. Jonesville has no rural carrier, so homes and businesses which receive rural delivery of mail from Waskom or Karnack rural carriers are not considered by USPS to be in Jonesville even though Harrison County and the State of Texas acknowledge such resident locations being in the unincorporated community of Jonesville. How is it conceivably possible that a residence situated west of Jonesville could be in Waskom which is five miles to the east of Jonesville? Unincorporated rural communities must be given exceptional consideration when determinations of residency can be impactful on a community's identity. If the State of Texas has recognized that historic sites along Concord Road and Coleman Road are in Jonesville, then why does USPS cast aside locations which are so obviously in Jonesville? Waskom and Karnack rural carriers have provided delivery service to areas within Jonesville as defined by county and state records. Denying the existence of Jonesville residents on the basis of rural carrier office affiliation has undermined the potential for Jonesville Post Office to have additional post office box holders and mail volume. If Jonesville had a well defined city limit as incorporated communities do, perhaps USPS assertions would bear more weight, but in this urgent situation, there are Jonesville residents who are delivered mail by rural carrier from another community and yet those very same residents go to Jonesville Post Office for postal services other than mail retrieval.

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Denying that fact is unproductive and inappropriate. Our Jonesville community is comprised of residences and businesses along FM 134, George Road, Concord Road, Jonesville Cut-Off Road, Bellview Road, Lotta Road, and Coleman Road, Scottsville Road, and Owen George Road. USPS did not survey ALL Jonesville residents who are customers of Jonesville Post Office because USPS was only interested in acquiring information from post office box holders. Post Office box holders do not constitute the full population of Jonesville nor the full population of Jonesville Post Office customers. Therefore, **USPS's handling of input from residents and customers was incomplete and insufficient for making a documentable assertion of no need for a post office in Jonesville.**

As the discontinuance process began and Friends of Jonesville Post Office started gathering information from residents and customers of our post office, we were advised that **a Waskom rural carrier had advised new Jonesville residents to put up rural mail boxes for delivery rather than delivery through the Jonesville Post Office which is located less than a mile from those respective homes.** That report is of serious concern because new residents with prior faith in postal service in their previous communities would certainly trust a USPS rural carrier about the best means with which they could achieve mail delivery. This matter will be reported to County Commissioners and other local authorities because it appears that Waskom Post office has infringed on our Jonesville community. We have attached a rural delivery Jonesville resident's concerns for your review. This is a very serious matter which should be of concern to USPS District Officials and especially in a small rural community which should be patronized by all of its residents. **USPS should not permit or allow rural carriers to impose their financial gain, preference, or influence on new residents who reside in such close proximity to a United States Post Office.** Such impositions impact USPS negatively and have impacted our Jonesville community and post office.

EFFECT ON EMPLOYEE

The United States Postal Service failed to fill our postmaster vacancy. Jonesville residents do not understand why **USPS did not try to fill the vacancy** in the postmaster position which occurred in 2008. Surely, a well trained Postmaster would have had more knowledge and expertise in providing efficient service, minimizing expenditures, seeking additional patrons and business customers, and increasing revenues than a temporary employee who had not had the same amount of preparation/training for the job. Our PMR's performance has been outstanding, and our post office has experienced increases in revenue and post office box holders as a result of her service. USPS should not sacrifice nor separate the PMR from employment. Her service has been an asset to USPS. It would be a serious loss in professional potential if she were to be separated from USPS.

ECONOMIC SAVINGS

Savings cannot be truly projected until costs of discontinuance and transfer of service related expenditures are calculated. USPS did not provide such information

in the purported economic savings which would occur should Jonesville Post Office be discontinued.

Additionally, USPS failed to consider the continued contractual lease rental payments through 2015 which would have to be paid to the lessor regardless of whether or not the post office were to be discontinued.

Statements relative to cost savings for not having to pay employee fees, maintenance costs, or any other costs do not reflect the loss of funds required for reimbursing post office box rental fees on a prorated basis as most likely would be requested by postal patrons. Even though the "Proposal for Closure...." reported only 111 post office box holders, there are 127 post office box holders. As stated at the August 27th community meeting, there were 123 post office box holders rather than 111 as reported by USPS.

Any economic savings would have to consider costs on other post offices for delivery of mail to rural roadside mail boxes and/or alternative post office boxes.

The District has mentioned only Waskom Post Office, but Jonesville has residents along roads which the Karnack rural carrier delivers mail such as Coleman Road, Lotta Road, and the northern fringes of Jonesville along FM 134. If one calculates the distance the Karnack rural mail carrier must drive, how could those costs be economical as opposed to continuance of Jonesville Post Office. Friends of Jonesville Post Office collected statements from those rural mail delivery residents and the overwhelming responses were that they receive efficient and economical service by driving only a short distance to Jonesville's Post Office rather than to Karnack or Waskom.

Throughout the discontinuance process, the district has provided contradictory statements about Jonesville Post Office revenue. Statements such as "**steady decline**," "**declining revenue**," and "**slight increase in revenue**" have been disproved within the financial figures reported in the "Proposal for Closure of Jonesville TX Post Office.." **Revenue production in Jonesville Post Office showed a significant increase over the past several years.** While the revenues have been increasing, USPS has not provided necessary adjustments in hours of operation which would greatly improve workload efficiency. Had USPS eliminated Saturday window service or reduced the hours of window service during the week, Jonesville Post Office could have been self-supportive. If USPS has known about the 2.2 workload (as reported to me by Allison Rizan in our phone conversation on August 15, 2011), adjustments should have been made to improve postal service workload efficiency. Why was that not done? The Area Manager indicated low workload and insufficient customer demand as the reasons he recommended Jonesville Post Office being considered for discontinuance. All concerned parties and USPS officials are now aware that the reports supplied by Mr. Richards were lacking in detail and greatly misrepresentative of the Jonesville community. Perhaps if USPS officials with authority and responsibility for supervising post office operations had taken action to **fill the postmaster vacancy**, had taken action to **reduce the hours of operation** by eliminating Saturday window service or by reducing hours of operation each work day, had **taken action to suggest ways and means for reducing costs and expenses** in

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the Jonesville Post office, had **taken action to train and educate the PMR** in seeking additional resident and business patrons and in promoting the important need for increasing revenues, had taken action to **prepare the PMR for becoming the postmaster**, and had taken action to **promptly notify Jonesville residents in 2008** that their post office was in jeopardy and could be closed for the reasons cited above, **low workload, insufficient customer demand, and low revenue concerns could have been alleviated, improved upon, or become inconsequential.**

There is a viable solution to the matter which would not negatively impact post office box holders, which would not require USPS expenditures for transferring service to 127 displaced post office box holders, which would not subject the historic community of Jonesville to possible identity loss and demise due to the proposed forever elimination of 75659, and which would maintain Jonesville resident and customer respect for the United States Postal Service. Those actions are:

1. **Improve workload efficiency by reducing the hours of operation**
2. **Provide training to the PMR to enhance service, sales, and efficiency**
3. **Realize/accept 50% savings granted by the lessor in the reduction of lease fees**
4. **Continue Jonesville Post Office 75659** which has provided service 164+ years
5. **Increase post office box rental fees** (100% survey responses support)
6. **Encourage rural mail customers in the unincorporated geographical and historical areas of Jonesville to switch to post office box rentals in Jonesville.**

Displacement expenses for transferring 127 customers to some other delivery means would be more costly than eliminating rural delivery by Waskom Post Office and Karnack Post Office to the few residents who currently retrieve mail at the roadside in Jonesville. Only a few residents would be impacted as opposed to the majority of Jonesville post office box holder residents and businesses which would be impacted in discontinuance of the post office. In this case, the lesser impact should take precedence over the greater impact.

7. **Charge rural roadside mail box delivery fees** similar to post office box rental fees to those Jonesville rural residents who choose not to rent mail boxes in Jonesville Post Office. Those who for documented health reasons such as being homebound or incapable of driving cannot retrieve mail at Jonesville Post Office could perhaps pay a nominal delivery fee. Assessment of "special fees" for exceptional service situations would certainly be responsive to customer need and would contribute to offsetting postal service costs. Rural Delivery Service for "convenience only" should be assigned a service fee and charged to that customer.
8. **Try to minimize location confusion** by requiring all Jonesville residents and businesses located in Jonesville to have zip code 75659 regardless of who delivers the mail or where the mail is delivered. Modern mapping and location technologies are not 100 % fool proof. There is confusion and has been confusion caused by neighboring community post office rural mail delivery into Jonesville to residents whose addresses are not aligned with Jonesville's zip code but rather the the neighboring community's zip code. Surely USPS has a simplified means for sorting mail on the basis of rural road address rather than foreign (non Jonesville) zip code affiliation. While such confusion may not impact the United States Postal Service, it does impose confusion for other delivery services and for citizens

who for whatever reasons desire to pinpoint the exact location of a residence or business in Jonesville.

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The following example demonstrates current location confusion.

Residents along Bellview Road in Jonesville have varying zip codes. Bellview Road is wholly situated in Jonesville, but west of Jonesville Post Office. Waskom community is five miles east of Jonesville. As one drives west along Bellview Road, the first three houses are in Jonesville zip code 75659; the next two houses have Waskom zip code 75692; the next two houses have Jonesville zip code 75659. Intermittent zip code identification causes confusion. One would have to logistically ask how there could be a Waskom address sitting in the middle of Jonesville addresses.

RESPECT FOR THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

One tragic result of the widespread RAO Initiative to close small rural post offices is that the process has revealed inadequate preliminary research, inappropriate evaluation techniques, and inefficient handling of customer concerns and requests for information....all of which do not improve customer opinion of those responsible for the future of the United States Postal Service nor the efficiency of mail delivery.

Friends of Jonesville Post Office asked residents and customers of Jonesville Post Office 75659 if their individual questions, comments, and concerns had been addressed by USPS. Ninety-nine percent of respondents indicated that USPS had failed to answer specific questions. Several respondents indicated that USPS responses had been categorical or general rather than focused on providing specific answers. That is an unfortunate fact that greatly inhibits customer faith in those who make decisions about the continuance or discontinuance of post offices. One who asks a question, generally is doing so as an expression of concern. When a question is not answered or is answered inappropriately, customers are frustrated, lose respect, or become angered. USPS has served our country for years. Good service is in your hands. Hopefully, this knowledge will help those of you who have responsibility for the decision to promote continuance of Jonesville Post Office. USPS should be respected as in the past.

CONTINUE POSTAL SERVICE FROM JONESVILLE POST OFFICE 75659

Continuation of Jonesville Post Office 75659 is essential to protect this small rural community from losing its identity, from suffering financial demise due to mandated changes in postal service, and from being eliminated on future maps which often show only zip code identified communities and/or reference only communities which have post offices. Discontinuance will negatively impact businesses, residents, and other postal patrons who rely on our post office. The impact of discontinuance would effect residents from other communities who regularly go to Jonesville Post Office for postal services beyond mail retrieval. Discontinuance would impact residents and those from other communities who rely solely on Jonesville Post Office for secure delivery of parcels that are temperature sensitive or of extreme value. Discontinuance will be very

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costly to the United States Postal Service due to relocation and necessary adjustments required for accommodating 127 additional post office box holders who will be impacted by change of address and delivery means. It would be less costly to continue Jonesville Post Office and implement the suggested changes which would produce improved workload efficiency and provide for self-supporting and self-sufficient postal service to this small rural community. A decision to continue Jonesville Post Office 75659 will preserve and provide for continuation of the well respected 164 years of postal service in Jonesville, Texas. **Choose the most cost effective decision which is to continue Jonesville Post Office 75659.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lelia Vaughan (Doctor of Education, University of Georgia, 1983)
Spokesman for Friends of Jonesville Post Office
P. O. Box 129
Jonesville, Texas 75659
903 687-3403

Enclosures:

Additional Resident Petition Signatures
Non-Resident and Visitor Petition Signatures
Survey Responses from non post office box holders
Supplementary comments on resident surveys
Supplementary comments from business surveys
Copies of Surveys utilized to retrieve community data

I have also attached copies of Charla Absolon's Survey Responses and Comments submitted... earlier today.

Rural Residents who live greater than
one mile from Post Office and
customers from other areas.

FRIENDS OF JONESVILLE POST OFFICE QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. Why do you go to the Jonesville Post Office?

2. What is the primary reason you go to Jonesville Post Office rather than your own post office?

3. Is there some unique level of service you experience at our Jonesville Post Office?

4. The United States Postal Service was initially created to provide mail delivery to rural residents. With financial difficulties impacting USPS, should the United States Postal Service discontinue small rural post offices which have shown increases in revenue?

_____YES _____NO

5. Do you want the Jonesville Post Office to remain in service? If you answer yes, please explain how important our post office is for meeting your needs.

_____YES _____NO

Name _____

Address _____

JONESVILLE COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR BUSINESSES

Please answer to following questions to help accurately describe business interests in Jonesville.

Does your business perform services in Jonesville? Yes No

Does your business own property in Jonesville? Yes No

How many employees work for your company?

Please select the best descriptions of your business.

- _____ self-employed
- _____ home-based small business
- _____ local office of major corporation
- _____ provide service in Jonesville only
- _____ provide service throughout East Texas and the Ark-La-Tex Region
- _____ provide service nationwide

Please select the best reasons your business patronized Jonesville's Post Office

- _____ convenient location
- _____ less waiting time than other post offices in area
- _____ best complete service capability as compared to other post offices in area
- _____ parking is easier
- _____ friendly service
- _____ opportunity to socialize with Jonesville residents

Should Jonesville's post office be continued? Yes No

How long has your business been in operation?

How many years has your business rented a Post Office Box in Jonesville?

How would discontinuance of Jonesville Post Office impact your business?

Rural Delivery Residents
who live within 1 mile of
Jonesville Post Office

JONESVILLE POST OFFICE COMMUNITY SURVEY

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Please answer the following questions to help accurately describe our community for USPS.

1. How long have you been a resident of Jonesville? _____ year(s)
2. How long have you been a Rural Mail Delivery resident? _____ year (s)
3. Why did you choose Rural Mail Delivery rather than Post Office Box delivery?
_____ convenience _____ suggested by mail carrier _____ PO box rent too high?
other (explain) _____

4. Do you have internet access in your home? (circle one) Yes No
5. How many people (all ages) live in your home? _____
6. How many work? _____ How many retirees? _____
7. Do any workers in your home commute to work? _____ Yes _____ No
5. Does anyone in your home own their own business? _____ Yes _____ No
6. Are there any handicapped or disabled persons living in your home? Yes No
7. Have you been victimized by burglary or theft in Jonesville? _____ Yes _____ No

How many times over the last ten years?

13. Which is a safer and more secure delivery location for mail? (check one)

_____ A rented and locked post office mail box inside a post office

_____ An unattended rural roadside mail box

14. If the majority of residents in Jonesville get their mail delivered to a post office mail box in Jonesville, would you be willing to do the same to keep a post office in Jonesville? _____ Yes _____ No

15. Would \$36 rent per year for a post office box burden you financially? Yes No

16. If given a choice, which post office would you rather drive to for getting your mail?

_____ Jonesville _____ Scottsville _____ Waskom

FRIENDS OF JONESVILLE POST OFFICE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Please answer the following questions to help accurately describe our community for USPS.

1. Do you have internet access in your home? yes no
2. How many people (all ages) live in your home? How many are retired?
3. How many of those in your home work either full-time or part-time?
4. How many work in Jonesville? work in Waskom? work elsewhere?
5. Does anyone in your home own their own business in Jonesville? yes no
6. Are there any handicapped or disabled persons living in your home? yes no
7. Do you ever buy money orders at the post office? yes no
8. Does anyone living in your home have difficulty reading English? yes no
9. Would driving 2,600 miles more per year impose financial burdens? yes no
10. Would driving 2,600 miles more per year impose driving time burdens? yes no
11. Would driving 2,600 miles more per year burden your business? yes no
If you answered yes to question 11 how would it burden your business?
12. Have you been victimized by any burglaries or thefts in Jonesville? yes no
If you answered yes to question 12, how many within the last ten years?
13. Are unattended mail boxes on the roadside safe for important mail? yes no
14. How many people get mail at your post office box address?
15. Would a small increase in PO box rent prevent you from renting? yes no
16. Do you ever visit with neighbors and friends at the post office? yes no
17. Has USPS provided specific answers to any question, comment, or concern you expressed on your questionnaire or in a letter? yes no

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Optional Comment Form

Following are comments I wish to make concerning the proposed discontinuance of the JONESVILLE Post Office.

1. **Effect on Your Postal Services.** Describe any favorable or unfavorable effects you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal services.
2. **Effect on Your Community.** Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.
3. **Other Comments.** Please provide any other views or information that you believe the Postal Service should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

I mail letters to my family. Maybe I'm old fashioned, but it is more personal and sends the love better. I also pay some of my bills by US mail. I don't feel comfortable leaving it in my house box.

Charla Absolon

Name of Postal Customer

Charla Absolon

Signature of Postal Customer

1831 Fm 134

Mailing Address

Waskom Tx 75692

City, State, and ZIP Code

15 Oct 11

Date

Ref 8.9

August 11, 2011

Deborah Ebera
Consumer & Industry Contact
United States Postal Service
951 W Bethel RD
Coppell TX 75099-9631

Dear Deborah,

I am writing to you about the importance of the United States Post Office in Jonesville, Texas 75659. Jonesville is a rural community comprised of retirees, professionals and laborers, commuters, home based businesses, oil/gas field workers, and wealthy philanthropists. There has been a United States Post Office in Jonesville since 1847 when John C. Dunn was named its first postmaster. I think 1847 was the same year the very first postage stamp released in the United States. Jonesville had a United States Post Office before the neighboring communities of Elysian Fields, Waskom, Karnack, and Scottsville and has provided exemplary service for 164 years. There has been a U. S. Post Office in Jonesville through the terms of thirty-four different Presidents of the United States. That is an incredible feat. Jonesville had a U. S. Post Office before the United States Treaty with Mexico was signed which ended the Mexican War. Jonesville had a U. S. Post Office before, during, and after the Civil War. Jonesville had a U. S. Post Office through the Great Depression and two World Wars and still continues to offer valuable and much needed service to our community. Our Jonesville Post Office 75659 serves as the back bone of this rural Harrison County community. If you close our post office, this very historic community will lose its identity forever.

Citizens of Jonesville and the surrounding community are disheartened to think that the United States Postal Service might wish to close our Jonesville, Texas 75659 United States Post Office. According to the most recent 2010 Census, the population in and around Jonesville has experienced an increase. There have been new homes built in our community such as along Concord Road not far from The Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan Home, a State of Texas Historic Site. Locust Grove Plantation Home, a United States National Historic Landmark, is in Jonesville also. The very large oil/gas exploration and production company now known as EXCO-BG was started by Sam Vaughan III right here in Jonesville as Winchester Oil and Westchester Gas. Discovery of Haynesville Shale gas in 2008 in our area has significantly contributed to the economy in Jonesville and the surrounding community. Texas Gas Gathering and Transmission (TGGT) and Talco Midstream were also started right here in Jonesville and have major compression facilities in our community. The oil and gas produced in and around Jonesville has contributed to the number of citizens who have now become philanthropists and who donate not only organizations in Harrison County, but also in the State of Texas and throughout the country. It would be an historical and economic tragedy to close a Post Office which has such patrons and those who depend on reliable service from a safe and secure post office box rental service as has been provided by the Jonesville Post Office.

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Jonesville is situated alongside Union Pacific's railroad that extends from Marshall to Shreveport. Before the Civil War, the first railroad extended from Caddo Lake at Swanson's Landing through Jonesville on its way to Marshall. With the outbreak of the Civil War, that track was physically removed in order to extend the railroad from Marshall to Shreveport to transport troops to the Red River. Jonesville had a trading post and a post office which moved from a location about a mile or so to the north to be along the new railroad. The old historic Swanson's Landing to Marshall railroad bed is still visible in Jonesville, and we are proud to have yet another State Historic Site marker which recognizes the significance of that first railroad.

My family owns T. C. Lindsey & Company General Merchandise in Jonesville. This store emerged from that early trading post which first opened for business in 1847...the same year we had our first postmaster, John C. Dunn, and our first post office. Until the late 1980's, the Jonesville Post Office was housed in my family's store. My Aunt Emma Vaughan was postmaster when Harry Reasoner from the CBS television show "60 Minutes" came to interview her about the importance of the small rural post office to the community. When she retired, Reba Nolan (Burkhalter is her last name now) became postmaster and expressed dissatisfaction with the rustic accommodations and lack of modern facilities for her office. Emma Vaughan's son, Sammy, convinced some of the Vaughan and Smith family members to contribute lands for him to construct a new building specifically for use as a post office. That building currently houses the Jonesville Post Office 75659. The land is owned by The Jonesville Museum, Inc. (Kim Scrivener, Manager and daughter of Sammy Vaughan) and the heirs of Thomas Worth Vaughan (Martha L. Vaughan, Ellen Vaughan Miller, and Lelia Vaughan). In a conversation with Pat Vaughan (Emma Vaughan's daughter, Sammy Vaughan's sister, and Kim Scrivener's aunt) a few days ago, she stated that Kim Scrivener of The Jonesville Museum would reduce the building's lease rental fees paid by the United States Post Office. If Pat's statement is true, then the financial burden for leasing space for the Jonesville Texas Post Office could be less than it has been if the United States Postal Service decides in favor of keeping it open. Pat told me that Kim Scrivener would contact the U. S. Postal Service leasing agent and offer to reduce the lease amount. The U. S. P. S. could contact Kim Scrivener to initiate that conversation if desired. Hopefully, that action will occur soon. As an additional note, my sisters and I still own our inherited surface interests on the land upon which the current post office is situated. My father never received rental payments, nor have the three of us. We have proudly supported the United States Postal Service in Jonesville and plan to continue to do so.

Many residents have become aware that our Jonesville Post Office 75659 is on the potential closure listing and have contacted me for ways to prove to the United States Postal Service that we want and need to keep our current degree of service in Jonesville and to keep Jonesville's United States Post Office open. Retirees are concerned about having to drive to Scottsville or Waskom for retrieving their mail. According to statistics retrieved online, Harrison County's rural crime level is higher than the state average. I share that same concern. Several folks have told me that they

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would much rather pay a higher mail box rental fee to insure safe and secure delivery of their mail inside the Jonesville Post Office. Raising the mail box rental fee is another viable option to increase income for post offices.

Jonesville is blessed with several well educated citizens who travel internationally. If the United States Postal Service should decide to close the Jonesville Post Office, travelers will be forced to acquire new United States Passports and change addresses on other forms of legal identification. Passport address changes necessitate full replacement and those costs are not insignificant. Similarly, there are several non-profit entities in Jonesville which will have to have significant legal work done to establish new addresses. Legal work which requires the aid of lawyers comes at a significant cost as well. Any legal document, wills, revocable trusts, charitable remainder unitrusts, etc., will necessitate costly changes. Jonesville probably has had more well-educated residents with advanced degrees per capita than most communities in Harrison County. This rich heritage, love for ancestry and history, and continuous motivation to learn have made Jonesville a very devoted and supportive community. Our Jonesville Post Office 75659 is important to its residents. We want to keep it open.

Residents from the Ark-La-Tex visit Jonesville several times a year for special events. Our store hosts two special events each year. In October, Jonesville has a Fall Festival and in December a community-wide Christmas Party is held at the general store. Folks from Shreveport, Dallas, Longview, Marshall, Texarkana, Houston, etc. come to historic Jonesville to take a step back in time. Each year the Ark-La-Tex Oilman's Shoot-Off is held in Jonesville on the grounds of Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan's home site. Hundreds of oil/gas managers participate in that event. Jonesville has been one of the stops on the annual BOO run in October which benefits burn victims. Antique Car Clubs from Texas and Louisiana visit Jonesville. Bus loads of tourists come to Jonesville and to Jefferson along FM 134 for historical purposes and to enjoy the atmosphere of the truly rural community. Jonesville is one unique stop along the way to Caddo Lake, Caddo Lake State Park, and Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Lands in the wildlife refuge once belonged to the Hope family. Jonesville is proud that one of its early residents was Annie Rebecca Hope who married Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan. Their Jonesville home is a state historic site and Annie Rebecca Hope's family has two historical cemeteries in the wildlife refuge. Both Dr. and Mrs Samuel Floyd Vaughan are buried in Jonesville's Concord Cemetery on the site where the Methodist Episcopal Church and a very early Masonic Lodge once stood on the grounds.

Research about Jonesville Texas 75659 has been conducted by the Texas State Historical Commission, the Texas Archeological Association, and other research professionals concerning the early railroad, a large Caddo Indian village along the creek in Jonesville, a Civil War encampment in Jonesville, the medical and agricultural practices of Dr. Samuel Floyd Vaughan, the contributions of Thomas Wayland Vaughan (one of Dr. S. F. Vaughan's five children) who worked for the U. S. Geological Survey and became Scripps Institutes first director in La Jolla, California, and the history of cotton farming. T. C. Lindsey & Company's cotton gin was the last cotton gin in operation in Harrison County and is still a visible reminder of the days when "Cotton was

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King." The Texas Historical Commission prepared paperwork to nominate Jonesville for designation as a National Park Service National Historic District. Such designation would certainly help the postal service. Without 75659 identity in such a rural area, Jonesville might just become a ghost town and only a memory. Surely, if citizens support our Jonesville Post Office, if Jonesville visitors support our post office, if the State of Texas cherishes the community of Jonesville.....why would the United States Postal Service not want to continue the 164 year old tradition of longevity in such a historical community with one of Harrison County's earliest post offices?

If the United States Postal Service were to have its building lease amount reduced, if mail box rental fees were to be raised, if the post office would relinquish large parcel delivery to UPS and FED EX, if hours of operation were to be reduced, if Saturday delivery were to be ended. if our government would approve postage increase to fifty cents per letter, would Jonesville get to keep its post office? What can we do to prove to the United States Postal Service that we want and need our post office? What will it take for a positive decision to be made to keep Jonesville Post Office 75659 open? What level of historical significance will convince the U. S. P. S. that Jonesville's Post Office needs to remain open? What can we do to increase the likelihood that our rural post office will not be cast aside? How will the United States Postal Service substantiate that contributions of land from my Vaughan family and the Smith family can now just be ignored and thrown out the back door? What will the Vaughan and Smith family heirs have to do to regain their original ownership of the land and recover the damage done for years by the concrete and slab that has been used for the current post office? That building was constructed by Sammy Vaughan out of his own pocket. The building was designed specifically for postal service. Will the United States Postal Service just say thank you for letting us remove the post office from your country store in the 80's, thank you for legally setting aside land for the purposes of a new post office, thank you for letting us tie up your land for all of these years when it would have been more environmentally healthy to have kept that land in natural vegetation as opposed to concrete? These are serious concerns and consequences of the suggested possible closure. It greatly frustrates me to think that my father's surface interests were voluntarily provided and permitted to be used in good faith when within a moment's notice, his act of kindness can be ruthlessly eliminated without site specific determination and consideration. I'm sure other Vaughan family members and other Smith family members will be just as frustrated.

If you, your office, and the United States Postal Service should make a decision to keep the Jonesville Texas 75659 post office open, we would be most grateful. If you should decide to close our post office, we will not stand idle and just let it happen without a very serious battle to keep the 164 year old post office serving the community for another century and a half plus. Jonesville, Texas is not a community made up of just passive bystanders. Jonesville, Texas consists of very dedicated citizens who want to protect the back bone of the community.....the very essence of which made this country so strong. Please reconsider, take our post office off of the list of post offices being considered for possible closure, and help keep Jonesville, Texas on the map. Losing our zip code designation, losing our status, losing the well established post office business

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in Jonesville....will have negative impacts on the community at large. Surely, there is another way for the United States Postal Service to recover financially other than by closing post offices such as our small post office in Jonesville. Do the right thing. Let Jonesville Post Office 75659 remain a viable functioning part of postal history. Doing otherwise would be an unfortunate, tragic loss.

Please advise me of ways to keep our post office in Jonesville. What will it take? Just let us know. We love our post office. We love Jonesville. For the first time since my Aunt Emma Vaughan was postmaster, we finally have an outstanding personable and service oriented postal employee who truly cares about postal service and the patrons she serves. Honor such outstanding service and the longevity of Jonesville. Please keep our Post Office in Jonesville, Texas 75659 open.

Sincerely,

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